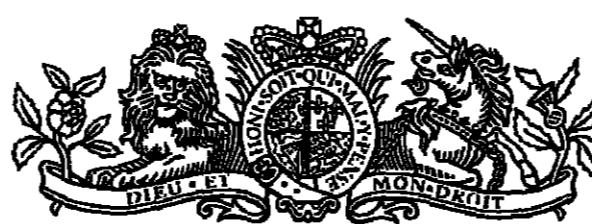


THE TIMES



30P

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Pop returns to the true spirit of rock'n'roll PAGE 32



THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT



TEL TALES
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MONDAY
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Soldiers' votes will decide who wins

Israel poll puts peace process under threat

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL's election remained on a knife-edge last night, with the right-wing challenger, Binyamin Netanyahu, ready to cause a dramatic upset if votes of more than 100,000 serving Israeli soldiers confirm his slender lead over the incumbent Labour Prime Minister, Shimon Peres.

With many Israelis shocked and dismayed by the overnight change which enabled the Likud leader, 46, to reverse initial TV exit-poll predictions of a narrow win for Mr Peres, 72, the future of the Middle East peace process hung in the balance.

One leading Israeli political analyst told Israel Radio that it would take "a miracle of biblical proportions" if the absentee postal vote was to reverse the lead of 50.3 per cent to 49.6 per cent for Mr Netanyahu, or a total of just 21,399 votes after the count of all normal ballot boxes was completed.

The counting of the postal returns of the 150,000 so-called "special voters"—the majority of whom are soldiers aged between 18 and 21 but who include Yitzhak Rabin's imprisoned assassin, Yigal Amir—will begin this morning. It will halt for 24 hours at sunset for the Jewish Sabbath if not complete, leaving the nail-biting to continue until a final result is announced on Sunday.

Commenting on the fitting symbolism that has left the outcome of the most critical poll in Israel's 48-year history in the hands of the young soldiers who fashion its image around the world, Chemi Shalev, another analyst, said: "If anybody had to decide these elections, perhaps it is the right thing that it is the soldiers. After all, they are the young people who have to pay the price of war. They are the young people who have to benefit from peace. I think, from an Israeli point of view, there is something morally



Netanyahu: harder line on the peace process

right about that." Ballots of hospital patients, seafarers and diplomats will also go forward towards determining the final result. Traditionally, Israel's young soldiers have tended to back the Right.

The Labour Prime Minister remained out of the public eye yesterday, ordering all senior colleagues to refrain from comment until the official result is announced. But the strain was telling and the veteran peacemaker visited hospital for treatment of an eye infection. Many Israeli commentators predicted that the Nobel Peace prizewinner would soon stand down if he fails to reverse Mr Netanyahu's narrow lead.

Many inside Labour, including a distraught Leah Rabin, widow of the assassinated Prime Minister, blamed the collapse in Labour support on the refusal of party strategists to exploit the emotion surrounding Israel's first ever political killing during the low-key campaign.

The apparent victory of Mr Netanyahu would be a big blow to President Clinton, who had all but endorsed Mr Peres. Mr Clinton considers the US-backed peace process one of his biggest foreign policy successes.

The acute symbolism of the army's deciding role in choosing the man who will lead Israel to the year 2000 was increased by news, initially censored in Israel, that four

Israeli soldiers were killed in occupied south Lebanon yesterday and four others wounded in two roadside bomb ambushes by the Iranian-backed Hezbollah. They were the first Israelis killed in Lebanon since the ceasefire that ended Operation Grapes of Wrath.

The prospect of a right-wing victory sent shockwaves through the 2.2 million Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza, many of whom are expecting the tough new security policies promised by Likud—including raids inside Palestinian police areas—as likely to prompt a new and more deadly intifada. Hamas said a right-wing victory would mean "war against the Palestinians and the Arabs".

Although Mr Netanyahu said through an aide that he would press ahead with the peace process, most commentators expect his future security policy to be influenced by hardline Cabinet members such as Ariel Sharon and Rafael Eitan.

The latter—who was army chief when hundreds of Palestinians were massacred in the refugee camps of Sabra and Chatila during the 1982 invasion of Lebanon which Mr Sharon, then Defence Minister, masterminded—said yesterday that "every clause" of the 1993 peace deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation should be reopened.

An employee at Jerusalem's luxury King David Hotel summed up many feelings when he waved a fist and shouted at colleagues: "No more Palestine. Arafat is

likud officials claimed that if Mr Netanyahu should emerge the winner, he would have no problem in forming a viable coalition during the 45-day period allowed to him. Negotiations with members of the unexpectedly successful religious parties are understood to have taken place.

Mr Rees, brand director of the Omega watch company, said he was appalled by pictures of the American girl Annie Morton modelling underwear, which he said could exert a harmful influence on impressionable readers.

"I thought it was irresponsible for a leading magazine which should be setting an example to select models of anorexic proportions... It made every effort to accentuate their skeletal appearance."

Mr Rees added that the photographs were likely to encourage extreme weight loss at a time when an increasing number of young women and men were suffering from eating disorders.

He said he did not believe that Omega, which uses the models Cindy Crawford and Elle Macpherson for its advertising campaigns, could benefit

from association with such

Joanna Vincent, director of the Eating Disorders Association, said: "While these sort of media images do not actually cause eating disorders, they contribute to the problem people have in recovering from anorexia or bulimia."

Anna Harvey, deputy editor of *Vogue*, said that the magazine was very aware of the problems associated with anorexia. "The model is not the slightest bit anorexic."

Stephen Quinn, publisher of *Vogue*, said that Mr Rees's comments appeared to be motivated by sour grapes because he had objected to the way Omega watches had been

photographed for a feature in the magazine on watches.

David Bonnivier of the New York agency which represents the 5'9" model, said: "She drinks beer, she eats McDonald's. She's never had a weight problem. Annie has a 34B bust, a 24-inch waist and 34-inch hips."

Dunblane police admit five-hour delay

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH AND STEPHEN FARRELL

PARENTS waited for up to five hours in a state of fear and confusion to hear whether their children had survived the massacre at Dunblane Primary School, the inquiry heard yesterday.

Detective Chief Superintendent John Ogg, in charge of the investigation into the shooting of 16 children and a teacher on March 13, admitted that with hindsight mistakes had been made.

Laura Dunlop, for the victims' families, told the inquiry on its second day of the anguish of the parents as they waited for hours for news. Police had not listed the names of the injured children who were taken to hospital because they did not want treatment delayed.

Teachers at the school were asked repeatedly to walk round the gym and identify the bodies. Mr Ogg said: "Understandably they kept breaking down. We had to keep giving them breaks."

As parents arrived they were split into two groups and those with children in Gwen Mayor's class were first taken to a private house near the school but at lunchtime were transferred by minibus to the school and left in a staffroom. They requested a briefing from a senior police officer but were told that nobody was available.

Superintendent Joseph Holden, in charge of looking after the families, denied that the families' request for a senior officer to give them news had been ignored. He had been unaware of such a request. Murmurs of discontent from the relatives in the gallery greeted his claim that all the families had been informed between 1.45pm and 2.30pm.

Head's evidence, page 4

Vogue model too thin for Omega

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN AND GRACE BRADBERRY

AN advertiser has withdrawn from *Vogue* magazine in protest at the use of "distasteful" pictures of a "skeletal" model in its June edition.

Giles Rees, brand director of the Omega watch company, said he was appalled by

pictures of a "skeletal" model in its June edition.

Mr Rees added that the photographs were likely to encourage extreme weight loss at a time when an increasing number of young women and men were suffering from eating disorders.

He said he did not believe that Omega, which uses the models Cindy Crawford and Elle Macpherson for its advertising campaigns, could benefit

from association with such

XERYUS ROUGE POUR HOMME

POUR HOMME

THE public has become increasingly opposed to most proposals for closer integration of the European Union, but narrowly still favours continuing British membership, according to a MORI poll for *The Times*.

The majority oppose a single European currency and the transfer of more powers from national parliaments to the European Parliament and there has been a big shift of opinion against introducing a European supreme court.

The poll, undertaken last weekend after Britain began its policy of non-cooperation with Brussels, shows that the public is sharply divided on party, sex, class, income and age lines over Europe.

Readers of quality broadsheet papers, including those which take a sceptical editorial line about Europe, favour Britain staying in the EU by a big margin, while readers of tabloid papers on balance support leaving the EU.

MORI details, page II

Sara Thornton walks free

Sara Thornton walked free from court yesterday after being convicted of manslaughter for stabbing to death her drunken husband and said that she had been fairly punished.

The jury of eight men and four women deliberated for six hours before substituting a verdict of manslaughter for Thornton's original murder conviction. The judge said he considered her not to be a danger to the public... Page 3



Ray of sunshine brightens May

Parts of Britain bathed in a heatwave yesterday, rescuing May from being one of the most miserable on record. Temperatures of up to 79F (26C) provided a flash of summer which drew sunbathers to beaches in the South, while the North East and Scotland were plagued with rain and cold winds.

Gravesend in Kent and Heathrow airport were among the hottest places in Britain. The outlook is cooler, though Met men believe June will be mostly sunny.

Mr Thomson, 60, was a mature theology graduate at St John's, Oxford, in 1972

Friend leaves Outback to be Blair's personal chaplain

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR'S spiritual mentor has flown halfway round the world from his cattle ranch in Australia to be by the Labour leader's side in the run-up to the general election.

Peter Thomson, an Australian priest, has taken up a post at St Luke's in Holloway, north London. He applied for the post at the suggestion of the Labour leader, whose home in Islington is a ten-minute walk away.

Mr Thomson, one of Mr Blair's oldest friends, arrived three weeks ago and will act as one of the most testing years of his life. He will return home after the election.

Mr Thomson's temporary home is a far cry from his 200-acre farm in the Australian Outback. He is living in a flat above a 1960s church meeting centre for alcoholics which is opposite the notorious Market Estate.

Mr Thomson, 60, was a mature theology graduate at St John's, Oxford, in 1972



Thomson: introduced young Blair to socialism

Hostility to Europe is growing

BY PETER RIDDELL

man & Society: "When Tony became leader things started to happen. I was getting calls from London from people asking me about our relationship and it just became very exciting. I wanted to be part of it. So I talked to Tony and said that if I came to England I would want to be what I am, not to work directly in the political arena."

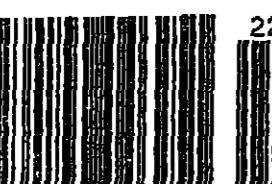
A few weeks ago Mr Blair telephoned to say that he had heard St Luke's required a clergyman. Mr Thomson, having discussed it with Lambeth Palace, was approved subject to receiving a visa.

The vicar turned cattle rancher has enjoyed a colourful life since he returned to his native Australia in 1974. He was removed from a curacy in Melbourne as a suspected communist and from a second post for setting up a scrap-metal business to create jobs in his parish. He was headmaster of Timbertop, one of Australia's leading private schools, worked in the family estate agency, and read the news on Australian television.

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GIVENCHY

'For me it was fair, I took a life. Never advocate violence, any form of violence'

Thornton walks free amid calls for legal reform

By TIM JONES AND RICHARD FORD

SARA THORNTON, walking free from court yesterday after being convicted of manslaughter for stabbing to death her drunken husband, said she had been fairly punished.

She left court surrounded by well-wishers after a jury cleared her of murdering her husband Malcolm. The verdict brought to an end a five-year struggle in which she became an icon for feminist groups campaigning on behalf of battered wives.

The jury of eight men and four women deliberated for just over six hours before substituting a verdict of manslaughter for Thornton's original murder conviction.

Passing sentence, Mr Justice Scott Baker said: "I sentence you on the basis that killing your husband was diminished by the abnormality of your mind. Were I to sentence you to manslaughter for provocation the sentence would be the same. I take into account the difficulties of living with an alcoholic but you nevertheless took a life."

The judge said he considered her not to be a danger to the public. Thornton was able to walk out of court because she had already served 5½ years when a jury at her first trial at Birmingham Crown Court decided she had murdered her 42-year-old husband as he lay in a drunken stupor on a couch in the family home at Atherton, Warwickshire.

The verdict brought demands for the Government to abolish the mandatory life sentence for murder to allow judges to fit the punishment to the facts of each crime.

At a press conference just hours after the jury returned its unanimous verdict, Thornton

said she thought that the verdict and sentence were a fair punishment for her crime: "For me it was fair, I took a life." She emphasised her abhorrence of violence: "No, never advocate violence, any form of violence. Violence is not power, violence is powerlessness."

Mr Thornton's family also expressed satisfaction at the verdict. Jean Murray, the dead man's sister, said: "What is important is that he has been shown not to be the terrible person she tried to make him out to be. It has cleared Malcolm's name because she has not proved she was a battered wife."

Gladys Suthers, also Mr Thornton's sister, said: "We think the jury bowed to feminist pressure. No one could stand up to that. We are not happy with the verdict but it is the next best thing to murder."

Thornton said yesterday of the man she killed: "You need to see the person you loved and killed in a good light. Malcolm had a tremendous sense of humour and he was very kind. He was very funny about his alcoholism. He was honest about his drinking and about himself."

She said the money spent prosecuting her would have been better used helping her husband to overcome his chronic drink problem. "When he was alive and lying down drunk in alleys where was everybody, when he was running around trying to kill me?" she said.

After her press conference in the Randolph Hotel in Oxford, Thornton played tunes on a grand piano in the ballroom, including the theme from Love Story.

During Thornton's second

trial, the jury at Oxford Crown Court was given harrowing accounts of her husband's violence, brought about by his heavy drinking. The prosecution had argued that his wife was a pathological liar and attention-seeker who killed her husband of ten months for the financial gain of securing her share of the house.

From her prison cell after she was jailed, Thornton contacted the Justice for Women Group, which began a campaign which resulted in the Court of Appeal last December ordering a retrial.

Her release has prompted calls from lawyers for Parliament to intervene to change the law on murder in cases where battered women kill.

Yesterday Gareth Peirce, Thornton's solicitor, said: "This case makes it clear that the law needs simplifying. For a jury to have to resolve the many difficult stages involved with these charges is something not even a PhD student would feel comfortable with."

The retiring Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, and his predecessor, Lord Lane, have both urged reform of the mandatory life sentence.

Anne Rafferty, chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, said last night: "It is time the mandatory life sentence died a death. It is ridiculous in this day and age and is resulting in trial after trial hearing contorted and sometimes distorted medical evidence to avoid the mandatory sentence being given."

Thornton plans to write a book based on her experience in prison, which she believes should be a place of healing and not of punishment.

By RICHARD FORD
MICHAEL HOWARD was urged last night to review the cases of 70 women serving prison sentences for killing their male partners.

Julie Bindel, of Justice for Women, said: "We now demand that all 70 cases of women serving a prison sentence for killing violent partners are reviewed by Michael Howard immediately."

The organisation, which led the campaign for Sara Thornton's retrial, hopes to make the case of Josephine Smith, 34, another cause célèbre. Smith claims that her husband, whom she killed in 1992 while she slept, was violent and made her re-enact scenes from pornographic films. She lost her application for leave to appeal in 1994.

Smith, who had been married for 12 years and has three children, shot her husband at their home at Walsington, Norfolk. Her plea of guilty to manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility was rejected and the judge recommended that she serve a minimum of 12 years for murder. It emerged during her trial that she had secured a mortgage by fraud, and it was said she lied about the abuse she had suffered.

Justice for Women also helped in the cases of Kiranjit Ahluwalia and Emma Humphries. Ms Ahluwalia had been jailed for life for murdering her husband who, the jury was told, mistreated her for ten years. In a retrial in 1992, ordered after medical evidence suggested she might have

been suffering from diminished responsibility because of depression, her plea of manslaughter was accepted and she was sentenced to a term she had already served.

Ms Humphries, a former prostitute, was sentenced to be detained at Her Majesty's Pleasure in 1985 for murdering her lover, a former client. She had feared he was about to attack her. She won her appeal last June after it was ruled that the jury had been misdirected on the question of provocation.

Campaigners press Howard to review 70 cases

By RICHARD FORD

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Schoolgirl's killer jailed for 30 years

By A STAFF REPORTER

A DOUBLE rapist who murdered a 16-year-old schoolgirl as she walked home from a pantomime was jailed for 30 years yesterday.

Gavin McGuire, 37, had denied abducting, sexually assaulting and strangling Mhairi Julian in December.

The jury of nine women and six men took less than half an hour to find him guilty. Friends of Mhairi wept with joy and applauded as the unanimous guilty verdict was read out.

Mhairi had gone with friends to see *Sleeping Beauty* at the Palace Theatre in Kilmarnock, Strathclyde. At 9.15pm she set off alone to walk half a mile to her home.

Within yards of the front door McGuire struck, punching her repeatedly before dragging her into a bus depot. Her battered and naked body was found by police next day. She had been gagged with her bra and strangled with her blouse.

The High Court in Glasgow was told that McGuire, of Stevenston, Strathclyde, had been convicted in 1977 of rape and, in August 1986, of at-

Child died in dentist's chair

By BILL FROST

A DOCTOR who gave anaesthetic to a schoolgirl who died in a dentist's chair told an inquest yesterday that one of his machines was broken during the operation.

The heart of Katie Dougal, 9, of Breaston, Derbyshire, "gave up" while she was undergoing what should have been straightforward surgery on two cracked teeth at the Alexander Gordon clinic in Long Eaton, Derbyshire, on January 18.

Dr Titas Kumar Basoo, the anaesthetist, told a hearing in Derby that a lead from a machine known as a capnograph, used to monitor harmful levels of carbon dioxide during treatment, had broken.

He had decided to continue Katie's treatment, relying on experience to regulate the gas level in her lungs.

Dr Basoo admitted he was unaware of manufacturer's guidelines which stated that capnographs are the only accepted method of monitoring CO₂ and "must be used in every case".

He was asked if he had read the 1994 Association of Anaesthetists booklet of stan-

dards of treatment and monitoring, which described the capnograph as equally necessary. Dr Basoo told Peter Ashworth, the coroner: "I have a copy of the 1988 guidelines but not that one."

He said that problems began ten minutes into Katie's operation, when her blood pressure started to drop. An injection of atropine was administered to restore normal pressure but succeeded only temporarily.

"A relapse after atropine is very uncommon — I've never seen it before. I turned all the anaesthetic gases off and told the dentist to stop the operation," he told the inquest.

He denied that he had caused a build-up of carbon dioxide by supplying too little oxygen to Katie but admitted a capnograph would have kept a constant watch on the levels. There was no question that the tube was correctly inserted, he said. "I had already done 12 or 13 other operations without a capnograph that day."

Mr Ashworth said that tests had revealed no underlying condition which could have brought about the collapse.

The hearing continues.



Coach suspended after accusation

By CAROL MIDGLEY

ANOTHER leading British swimming coach has been suspended after being questioned by child-protection officers over an allegation made by a female pupil.

Eric Henderson, 48, a former Commonwealth gold medallist, has been reported by a young woman who swims for the City of Bristol squad.

He was immediately suspended by the Amateur Swimming Association and its chief executive, David Sparks, said it would be cooperating fully with the police.

A spokesman for Avon and Somerset Police confirmed that officers from the Family and Child Protection Unit at Bristol were investigating an alleged incident after a coaching session.

The investigation comes two weeks after the British Olympic diving coach, Mike Edge, was suspended over similar allegations, thought to date back ten years. Mr Edge and Lindsey Fraser, a former nat-

ional diving coach, were arrested by police at Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, and are bailed to appear there in a few weeks' time.

A year ago, Paul Hickson,

the former Olympic swimming coach, was jailed for 17 years for raping or assaulting 11 girls in his charge.

Mr Henderson, a divorced father of three who recently applied for the job of director of English swimming, said yesterday: "I feel shocked and let down. I don't know what the allegation is, but I am certainly very much innocent."

Mr Henderson has worked as Bristol City Council's sports development officer for swimming since 1984. A former butterfly international, he teaches pupils aged 12 to 28 for the City of Bristol Swimming Club and regularly runs his own morning coaching sessions at local pools.

Mr Sparks said: "In accordance with the ASA's own strict guidelines, Eric Henderson has been suspended from membership until the issue has been resolved."

An official at the ASA added:

"It would be wrong to say that these recent spate of incidents are not damaging the sport — we want parents to feel this is a safe sport in all respects — but we must remember they are only allegations."

Many parents of children coached by Mr Henderson defended him yesterday. Jane Leslie, of Pilning, Bristol, whose daughter Charlotte, 17, swims for Henderson's team, said: "This has come out of the blue. Everyone at the club is behind him. The feeling is that Eric cannot be guilty. There has never been a murmur about him."

Within yards of the front door McGuire struck, punching her repeatedly before dragging her into a bus depot.

Her battered and naked body was found by police next day.

She had been gagged with her bra and strangled with her blouse.

The High Court in Glasgow was told that McGuire, of Stevenston, Strathclyde, had been convicted in 1977 of rape and, in August 1986, of at-

tempted rape, for which he received a ten-year sentence. He was released in July 1993. Yesterday the judge, Lord Clyde, told him: "You have been found guilty of a callous and brutal murder of a young helpless girl and an act of atrocity."

"The number and nature of the acts of violence you have perpetrated only make the case particularly appalling. Your evident lack of humanity and self-control makes you a danger to the public."

He said that McGuire should not be released from prison except on humanitarian grounds and ordered him to serve a minimum of 30 years.

Gordon Jackson, QC, for the defence, offered no excuse on McGuire's behalf. He said outside the courtroom that his client had not even thought about appealing.

Painstaking work by forensic scientists found fibres on the dead girl's naked back which were "indistinguishable" from samples taken from a lumberjack-style shirt belonging to McGuire who lived with his mother.

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'It was a scene of unimaginable carnage, one's worst nightmare. The air was thick with bluish smoke'

Head teacher calls for handguns to be banned

REPORTS BY STEPHEN FARRELL AND GILLIAN BOWDITCH

THE head teacher of Dunblane Primary School made an emotional plea for handguns to be banned yesterday, after telling the inquiry into the massacre how he had walked into the gym as acrid gunsmoke hung in the air.

"Prior to our tragedy in March, I really had no view about guns whatsoever — I didn't know anything about them," Ronald Taylor said. "But now I cannot for the life of me understand why anybody would wish to keep handguns at all. If people wish to continue with sporting activities surely to goodness disabled guns could be kept elsewhere."

"I can only imagine that such people have never seen the result of what guns can do. I have."

Mr Taylor, 46, was on the

telephone in his office when the shooting happened. He heard indistinct bangs in the distance, but thought it was builders at work. Then the assistant head teacher, Agnes Aylson, 47, burst into his office crouching down and told him: "There is a man in the school with a gun."

He hung up and dialled 999. Then ran to the gymnasium. On the way he met a student teacher, David Scott, who said the gunman had shot himself.

Mr Taylor said: "I burst into the gym. It was a scene of unimaginable carnage, one's worst nightmare. The air seemed to be thick with bluish smoke and the smell of cordite was quite strong."

A group of injured children were crying in one corner. Leaving Mr Scott to look after them, Mr Taylor left the gym

to tell staff to call an ambulance, then went back inside with the janitor, John Currie.

"It was at that point I noticed Mr Hamilton at the top of the gym. He seemed to be moving. John Currie was further down the gym than I was. I noticed there was a gun lying on the floor beside Mr Hamilton and I asked Mr Currie to kick the gun away. We noticed that Mr Hamilton had a gun in his hand. Mr Currie moved the gun and threw it away to his left."

His voice broke as he told how he tried to help the injured children. Police arrived with other staff, who began to comfort the young students and two injured staff lying in a corner.

"We just did what we could. The staff were quite magnificent." He was then told by

police that the next priority was to identify the dead, which was carried out amid "considerable chaos and confusion". The process was hampered by the death of Gwenne Mayor, the class teacher, and the fact that the register had not been completed that morning. Nursery staff who taught the children the year before were brought in to help, and he recognised some victims himself. "We had to take staff in and out of the gym on several occasions. It was very traumatic," he said.

One record card was missing and one child was wearing someone else's clothing, which added to the problems. He has since ordered that individual photographs should be included within children's records, but said pictures would have been of limited use at the time.

After giving evidence, Mr Taylor called for support for the Dunblane Snowdrop Petition, started by eight parents of children living locally, calling for the private ownership of handguns to be outlawed.

The organisers now have 62,000 signatures — more than the number of licences for handguns in the UK. They aim is to collect more than 200,000 signatures, equivalent to the total number of handguns legally permitted on firearm certificates.

Speaking of the opening days of the Inquiry, Mr Taylor



Head teacher Ronald Taylor, left, said he saw Hamilton's body slumped in the gym, a gun still in his hand. The killer's mother, Agnes Watt, right, was puzzled when her son did not make his daily phone call to her

said: "As you can imagine, it has been a harrowing two days for us. If it has been harrowing for us, you can imagine how difficult it has been for the families, so my heart goes out to them."

He praised the bravery of the wounded staff, Mary Blake and Eileen Harrold, and the others who had acted "magnificently" in helping injured children in the gymnasium and others around the school.

"I am extremely proud of them all. The wounds in our community in Dunblane suffered as a result of Hamilton will never leave us, but with the support and understanding and love they will heal and fade with time."

Mr Taylor told the inquiry

that new security measures had been installed. There are now 45 phone lines, one in each classroom and outbuilding, and senior staff carry mobile phones. Dunblane's community policeman PC Henry Stark sits immediately inside the front door, where all visitors are issued badges and must sign in and out.

A closed-circuit camera sys-

Hamilton fired again point-blank as wounded children lay on floor

THOMAS HAMILTON had stood over some of his wounded young victims as they lay on the gymnasium floor and shot them at point-blank range.

Detective Chief Superintendent John Ogg, the senior investigating officer, said that the gunman's actions had been reconstructed from

ballistics and from other evidence.

He agreed with Ian Bonomy, QC, for the Crown, who had said: "I want to ask you about certain conclusions you have drawn about the way Thomas Hamilton behaved in the gym."

"I think you have yourself drawn the conclusion that in

the gymnasium there was a group of children who either had been disabled by the firing of the gun, or who themselves had been thrown to the floor, over whom Hamilton stood and fired his gun from a distance which must have been simply the height of his hand above the children."

Speaking of the opening

days of the Inquiry, Mr Taylor

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Killer's mother tells of chat before massacre

THOMAS HAMILTON was a model son, his mother told the inquiry. He visited her twice a week, telephoned every night and occasionally gave her money. She heard of the massacre when, having missed his daily call, she rang his home and the police answered.

Agnes Watt, 64, a small, dark-haired woman wearing a white embroidered cardigan, said the night before the massacre her son had visited her, taken a bath, eaten a meal and had a "blether". She had not noticed anything unusual.

Mrs Watt said Hamilton's income came from buying and selling cameras. When he made a good deal he used to give her £50.

When he carried out the shooting, Hamilton was in severe financial difficulties with debts of more than £11,000. The boy's clubs he ran had amassed an additional deficit of £15,907.

He had reached the credit limit of £1,500 on his Barclaycard five days earlier. His loan company had turned him down for a fourth loan. Detective Chief Inspector Paul Hughes of Central Scotland Police said Hamilton had a series of bank accounts that he juggled, refinancing them when they became unmanageable. He owed the Bank of Scotland and the Royal Bank of Scotland £3,511; he owed Barclaycard £1,500; the debt on his Debenhams card was £737.74; he had three other loans totalling £5,350. His bank balance was 3p. In addition, Hamilton was behind on his council tax and the local authority had started legal action against him. Mr

Watt returned to live with her adoptive parents, Catherine and James Hamilton, taking her baby son with her. As part of the divorce arrangements, Mr and Mrs Hamilton adopted the baby and brought him up as their own. It was not until he was a teenager that he found out that Agnes Watt was his natural mother. Even after that, Hamilton treated her as a sister.

When he was aged about nine, the family moved from Glasgow to Stirling. The inquiry was told that although Hamilton and his mother were close, he played a cruel trick on her. Sheila Sutherland, a close friend of Mrs Watt, said Hamilton had a "malicious schoolboy sense of

humour". Four years ago his mother had developed diabetes and Hamilton had got a friend to telephone her, telling her that she would have to go to hospital in Inverness, 100 miles away. Mrs Sutherland said: "The call had greatly distressed Mrs Watt." She said the incident had blown over and Mrs Watt and her son had remained close.

Mrs Watt said she knew of only one friend of Hamilton's, a Jim Gillespie, who visited him from time to time. She said she was unaware of any debts her son had but said she had given him £20 on two occasions when he was short of money.

The Lord Advocate, Lord Mackay of Drumadoon, asked Mrs Watt if she had noticed anything different about her son in the last few weeks of his life. Mrs Watt replied: "No." She said he had made no complaint to her about the local authority.

Mrs Watt met Hamilton in town on the Monday before the killings. He told her he was going to Stirling University but did not say why. The next day he visited her at home around 2pm and left at 6pm. "He took a bath, had something to eat and we sat and chattered," she said. The conversation was about Mrs Watt's father, James Hamilton. It was a perfectly normal conversation, she said.

A statement was read to the court from James Hamilton, 87, Hamilton's grandfather and adoptive father. In it he said Hamilton never smoked or drank, had no girlfriend and never lost his temper. "He never raised his hand to me or showed me any violence."

Parents had to wait three hours for information

PARENTS started flocking to the school soon after the shooting as news filtered through the village. "They knew that something terrible had happened but they didn't know what," Laura Dunlop, advocate for the families of the victims, said.

The parents of children in Gwen Mayor's class, some carrying younger brothers and sisters, were told that this was the class affected. Miss Dunlop said that the surviving children wanted their parents and the priorities of the parents was to be with their children. But there was a delay of more than three hours before some of the parents of the injured were informed.

Andrew Gibb, solicitor for the Mayor family, told the inquiry that Mrs Mayor's husband, Rodney, was ushered into the school library alone at 1pm, not knowing that his wife was dead. After half an hour he threatened to go to the media to find out what had happened. It was only then that he was told.

Mr Mayor then spent a frantic hour trying to contact

his daughter, Esther, who, unbeknown to him, had arrived at the school at about 12.30pm and had been ushered into the staff room, only yards from her father. It was not until 2.45pm that Esther and her father met.

Under cross-examination,

Detective Chief Superintendent John Ogg said his information was that a senior officer had briefed Mr Mayor as soon as he arrived at the school, but he admitted that his information could be wrong and said lessons would be learnt from the incident.

Mr Ogg said the situation at the school had been unbelievable. "For the first hour it was chaotic, with injured children being removed and treated at the locus." He saw police officers crying at the scene.

He said that, with hindsight, a list of the injured children should have been taken before they left the school. He admitted that even the most seriously injured children had been able to identify themselves to doctors.

Superintendent Joseph Holden, in charge of looking

after the families, was criticised by lawyers for the bereaved for allowing the media to gather around the house where relatives were being kept immediately after the massacre. Asked why he had not told the relatives earlier in the day who was dead and who injured, he said that information was not forthcoming from the hospital and the identification of bodies in the gym was "shaky".

At 11.15am, less than two hours after the killings, he told the parents that he did not know how many were dead, only to be told by one of the fathers that radio bulletins were announcing 12 deaths.

"I was shocked. The information could have been correct. I didn't want to deny it. I didn't know that information," he said. He agreed that information must have been given to the media before relatives. "I felt quite keenly that I was the person who was responsible for giving information to those parents and, obviously, early in that morning an announcement like that affected my credibility with parents."

Marquess of Bristol sells off titles for a place in the sun

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Marquess of Bristol raised a much-needed £52,000 yesterday when he sold off ancient titles that have been in his family for generations. He plans to leave the family seat at Ickworth in Suffolk and build a beach home and a new life in the Bahamas.

Lordships of the manor are the basest coinage of the British aristocracy, but still have a wide-ranging appeal. The buyers of the marquess's eight lordships sold at a London auction yesterday will gain no entry in Debrett, neither land nor house, and certainly no *droit de seigneur* over the brides of the parish.

Michael Whately, a solicitor, paid £7,300 for the lordship of the manor of Doveton Hall, near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk, because that is where he now lives. The title dates back to 1292, but carries no particular rights or privileges. "It's just a bit of fun if it is your own home that the title relates to," an agent acting for Mr Whately said. Mr Whately



The marquess: new life

Doveton, or Michael Whately, Lord of Doveton. He may not call himself Lord Whately of Doveton, or Lord Doveton. Another of Lord Bristol's lordships was bought for £4,200 by Jean Evans, who farms land in Suffolk to which the title relates. "I have no idea if it gives me any special rights; it is just nice to keep history together," Mrs Evans said.

The bargain of the day went to David Mullins, 53, who owns a chain of employment agencies in Brighton; he paid £30,500 for the barony of Gorey in Co Wexford. Irish baronies are a different animal from lordships of the manor, although almost equally worthless. Mr Mullins has bought the right to call himself Baron of Gorey but will still not get into Debrett.

"My family were all servants to Lord Arundel of Wardour in Wiltshire; my grandfather was his coachman," Mr Mullins said. "After that service, I wanted a title for myself." Lordships of the manor are among the most ancient titles in England, with



David Mullins, the new Baron of Gorey, with his fiancée Carlotta Hendricks

narrowly outbid Nick Doveton, 20, a photographer bidding for his mother, whose ancestors were lords of the manor of Doveton in the 14th century. "We are researching the life of Robert de Doveton, and the lordship might have given us a lot more information about him," a disappointed Mr Doveton said.

Mr Whately will be entitled to put his title on letterheads and anywhere else he chooses. He may call himself Michael Whately, Lord of the Manor of

their roots in Saxon times. The Domesday Book of 1086 lists 13,498 English manors and their owners. William the Conqueror distributed lordships to his Norman barons and supporters, as did Henry VIII after the dissolution of the monasteries.

Lords of the manor were the linchpins of feudal England,

offering protection and land to their tenants in return for rent paid in money or labour. But with the agrarian revolution and rising prosperity, the

system was eroded and with it the power of the manorial lord. In 1922, the most revolutionary piece of land legislation this century swept away the last vestiges of feudal tenure, replacing it with modern-style freehold or leasehold.

The Law of Property Act took away the lord's jurisdiction over all land except that which he owned himself, and the lord's titles and powers became largely redundant, easily bought and sold as baubles on the open market.

There was little trade in them until the 1980s, when property values soared and the upwardly mobile sought further trappings of nobility and success to go with the Porsche.

Only a few rights, and occasionally a charter, remain with the titles. Some lords still have the right to hold markets and fairs, to mine for minerals and to charge BT for telephone poles.

Leading article, page 19

Why the wealthy of the world are to the manor drawn

By JOANNA BALE

THE sale of titles is worth £3 million a year, according to Manorial Auctioneers, which claims to handle 90 per cent of them.

Robert Smith, chairman of the Manorial Society of Great Britain, of which Manorial Auctioneers is a trading arm, said: "The average price is £8,000, but it fluctuates. In 1989 it peaked at £11,000. Prices dropped in the early 1990s but are picking up."

"We get Americans buying them, but most go to British buyers, sometimes expatriates. Many people buy them when they purchase a manor house and want the title to go with it. It often appeals to the man who has made good and has bought himself a Rolls-Royce as a status symbol."

When Abdul Latif arrived in Britain in 1969, he could barely speak English. Two years ago the Bangladeshi-born restaurant owner joined the ancient gentry as a lord of the manor after paying £5,500 for the title Lord of Harpole with a domain in Wickham Market, Suffolk. He said: "I

use the title on my menu and on the front of my restaurant. Some people think I am very important and they have good faith in my name."

Joseph Hardy, a Pennsylvania lumber tycoon, outbid a Japanese buyer to pay £85,000 for the lordship of Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire, in 1990. Mr Hardy, one of the richest 200 men in America, with a £240 million fortune, uses the title to market his spa resort in Pittsburgh.

Gerald Rand, a wealthy businessman and retired master builder who owns Lyndford Hall, near Thetford, Norfolk, and four local lordships, saves around £20 each year on the bill for heating and lighting his 110-room mansion because he carries poles and pylons on his land. Mr Rand says he regrets the commercialism that now surrounds title buying.

Last year, a Hong Kong sonchior, Ma Ching Nam, paid £330,000 for the 17th-century Mounie Castle near Oldmeldrum, Grampian, and the right to call himself Baron Ma of Mounie.



The Duchess of York with Princess Beatrice. She and Princess Eugenie will stay with their mother

Clerk sets seal on Yorks' divorce

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE marriage of the Duke and Duchess of York was officially ended yesterday with the processing of a non-descript-looking piece of paper.

Ten years after the couple wed on a day which for millions represented a new chapter in the future of the Royal Family, a legal clerk issued a decree that their divorce was now "absolute". After the three years they have lived apart, the most noted immediate public impact on the couple will be that the Duchess will no longer use the title "Her Royal Highness".

A spokesman for the couple said: "Today marks the end of a chapter in their family's life and the start of a new one." The humble but historic document carried a standard fee of £20.

It was a far cry from the cost of the Westminster Abbey wedding although the legal bill for the divorce will be rather higher.

The low-key issue of the decree absolute by the Family Division of the High Court came at the first legal chance: six weeks and one day after the Duke was granted a decree nisi. The Duke applied for the divorce, with the Duchess's consent, on the grounds that they had been legally separated for more than two years.

Buckingham Palace would say little yesterday — and

nothing about the financial settlement but it is thought that the Duchess has agreed to a £2 million financial package, under which she gets a relatively modest £500,000 from the Royal Family.

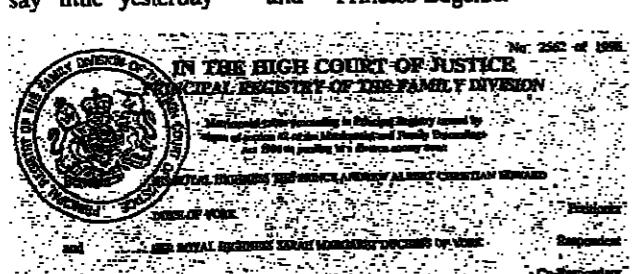
The Palace repeated a statement made three years ago that the children would continue to live with the Duchess and that both parents would participate in their upbringing. A spokesman for the Duke and Duchess said: "It is still true that they remain close friends. They are dedicated parents, committed to raising their daughters together. Their top priority is to ensure the children's wellbeing and happiness along with their own."

Yesterday, as the legal paperwork was processed in a small room on an upper floor corridor at the back of Somerset House in the Strand, the couple were 130 miles apart.

The Duke was at work at the Royal Naval Air Station at Portland, Dorset, after a night journey in the Royal Train.

He had spent yesterday in York, the dukedom of which the Queen gave him on his marriage to Sarah Ferguson on July 23, 1986.

The Duchess spent the day at home in Wentworth on the Surrey-Berkshire border with their children, Princess Beatrice, seven, and six-year-old Princess Eugenie.



The £20 decree absolute document which ended the Duke and Duchess's marriage after ten years

Writer's Whisky Galore home is put up for sale

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE island home where the comedy classic *Whisky Galore* was written is up for sale.

Compton Mackenzie wrote his best-seller about parched islanders rescuing a Second World War cargo of whisky from the wreck of a ship after the *SS Politician* sank near his house on the Isle of Barra in the Outer Hebrides.

The *Politician* was carrying clothing, luxury goods, mil-

lions of pounds of foreign currency and 22,000 cases of whisky to America when she hit rocks between Barra and Erisay in 1941. The islanders are believed to have unofficially liberated as many as 5,000 cases of whisky before the authorities intervened.

The present owner, Harold Cousins, is moving back to his native Lake District with his wife Brenda. The Oban estate agents Alexander Dawson are inviting offers above £90,000.

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6 HOME NEWS

British road deaths at lowest since 1926

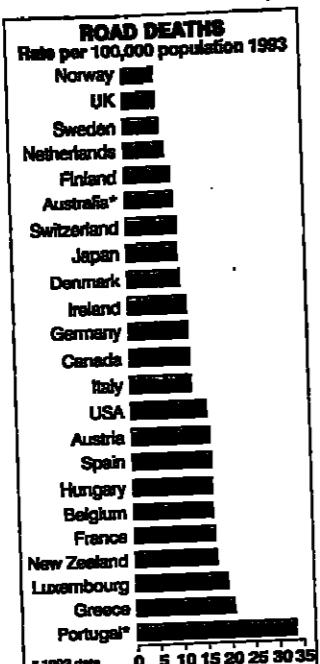
By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE number of deaths on the roads fell last year to the lowest level since accident records began in the 1920s, putting the British second only to the Norwegians as the safest drivers in the world.

A total of 3,621 people were killed in traffic accidents in 1995, according to statistics published yesterday by the Department of Transport. This is a drop of 29 on 1994, itself a record low year. Serious injuries also fell last year by 2 per cent to 45,523, while slight injuries totalled 261,362, a 1 per cent drop.

Last year's figure is the lowest since 1926, when road deaths were counted for the first time. Since then traffic has increased fourteenfold but road fatalities are 25 per cent lower. The worst year for road deaths was 1941, when the blackout contributed to the overall total of 9,169 fatalities.

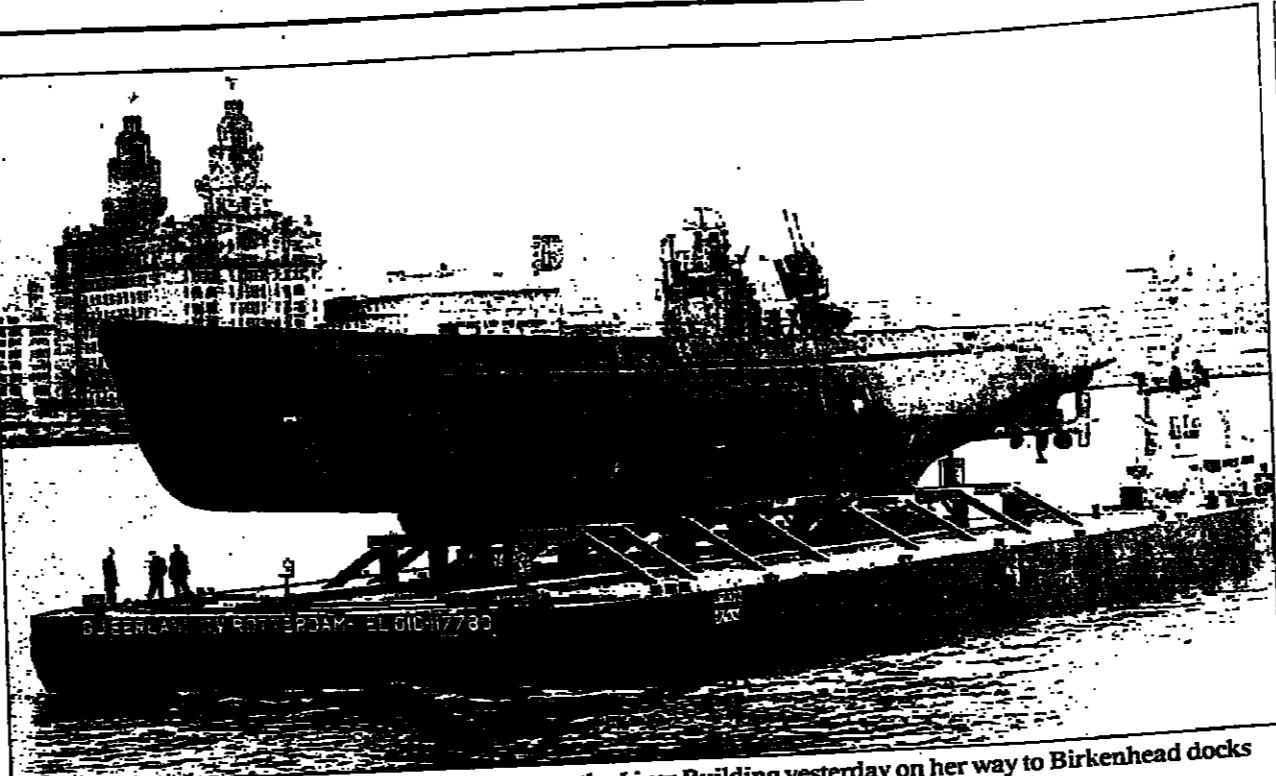
Measured by deaths per 100,000 of the population, Germany has nearly twice as many traffic fatalities. France, almost three times more, while Portugal's rate is six times higher. However, the national secretary of the cam-



ble are abandoning the roads because they are so scared. The figures cannot be compared with when the majority of people walked to school and work. Now, nearly everybody is in their safe little metal box."

Steven Norris, the Road Safety Minister, welcomed the figures, which he said showed that "our road safety message is getting through". Road-safety organisations said the trend reflected better emergency care at the scene of accidents, safer cars and the effect of the Government's drink-driving campaigns. Edmund King, head of campaigns at the RAC, said air bags, side-impact bars and crumple zones had played a crucial role.

Deaths from drink-driving have fallen from 1,110 in 1983 to 550 in 1993, while compulsory front passenger seatbelts, introduced in 1983, save an estimated 370 lives a year. Injuries to pedestrians and children were also down. Child casualties fell 3 per cent to 43,788. This figure included 270 deaths and 6,983 serious injuries. Pedestrian casualties decreased by 3 per cent to 47,029. Pedestrian deaths fell 8 per cent to 1,038.



U-boat US34, which was sunk in May 1945, is towed past the Liver Building yesterday on her way to Birkenhead docks

Salvaged U-boat resurfaces in Liverpool

A GERMAN U-boat sunk by an RAF bomber at the end of the Second World War has arrived at its new home on the Mersey after spending more than 50 years on the sea bed.

U-34 was thought to have been bound for South America, carrying escaping Nazis to Argentina, when she went down in Danish waters in May 1945. When the boat was salvaged nearly three years ago she was found to contain maps, documents and enough food and drink —

including beer, wine bottled in 1936 and perfectly preserved tins of corned beef — to last the crew for 11,000 miles.

The boat, acquired by the Warship Preservation Trust, arrived in the Mersey on a barge yesterday after being delayed by bad weather. U-34 will be berthed in Birkenhead docks and officials from the trust hope to use the ground floor of a warehouse near the waterfront to house a display of the treasures found on board.

Sir Philip Goodhart, the trust's chair-

man, said he did not know if the maps and documents would help to solve the mystery of the vessel's last mission.

"It is possible that the crew had not been given their orders before she was sunk," he said. "There was an Argentinian radio operator on board, which lends weight to the argument that she was on her way to South America."

"I think the controversy over what she was doing adds a bit of spice to the U-boat."



Moore and Squires

Moore pays for Squires operation

ILLNESS and old age have helped to ease one of the showbusiness world's longest rifts. Roger Moore has paid for a cancer operation for his former wife, Dorothy Squires.

The one-time screen James Bond sent the 81-year-old former singer a cheque for £15,000 and a large bouquet with the message: "Don't worry, to Dot with my love, Rog." She is now recovering at home in the Rhondda village of Treborth, after treatment at a private hospital in Cardiff.

Moore, 68, underwent an operation last year when he was diagnosed as having a suspected cancer of the prostate.

The two first met when Moore was a struggling young actor. They married in 1953, but separated after nine years. Squires refused a divorce for seven years. The marriage was dissolved in 1969. The singer's career went into decline and, despite several comeback appearances, she was declared bankrupt in 1980. She has never remarried.

Moore, who lives in the south of France, is estimated to have a personal fortune of £23 million from his career. His subsequent marriage to an Italian, Luisa Mattioli, has broken up and he is now living with a Dane, Christina Tholstrup.

One third of babies illegitimate

More than a third of the babies delivered in England and Wales last year — 33.9 per cent — were born outside wedlock. The figure was 19.2 per cent in 1985, according to the Office for National Statistics. Most were registered in both parents' names. The average age of mothers giving birth was 28.5 last year, compared with 27 in 1985. The number of live births dropped by 17,000 over the year, to 648,000 in 1995.

Madam fined

A madam who runs a brothel near Thames Valley police headquarters has been fined £25,000 at Oxford Crown Court. Sarah-McLaine King, 31, of Kidlington, Oxfordshire, earned up to £50,000 from £120-an-hour fees. She said she would have to stay in business to pay the fine.

A bridge too far

An Arnhem veteran who escaped without a scratch from one of the worst battles of the Second World War was run over when he returned to the scene on holiday. Bill Boyes, 72, of Mirfield, West Yorkshire, suffered an injured hand and knee when he was struck by a scooter.

Player's plea

Liverpool defender Neil Ruddock, 28, denied obstructing police inquiries after his Porsche Carrera, reported stolen, was found overturned in January. The footballer did not appear before Southport Magistrates and the case was adjourned until June 26.

Return flight

Lincolnshire County Council was the buyer of a collection of RAF Dambusters' memorabilia sold for £6,325 at Bonham's in London on Tuesday. The collection will go on show at Grantham Museum. The 617 Squadron flew from RAF Scampton, just north of Lincoln.

Blow for boxer

A boxing fan whose car was driven into by former WBO world heavyweight champion Herbie Hide left Norwich Magistrates' Court with £989.27 in compensation — and the boxer's autograph. Hide, 24, was given a two-year conditional discharge for causing criminal damage.

Royal car for sale

A black Rolls-Royce Phantom which has belonged to Princess Alexandra since 1971 will be auctioned by Sotheby's on June 15. The car has done less than 3,000 miles and is expected to fetch £40,000 at the Rolls-Royce Rally at Althorp Park, Northamptonshire.

Best landlady

The owner of a restored farmhouse who has been in the accommodation business since only 1992 is AA Landlady of the Year. Judges said Muriel Orme, of Bank House, Oakmoor, Staffordshire, and her husband had quickly made it a friendly and enjoyable place to stay.

Fresh trend means salads are in the bag

WEEKEND SHOPPING

THE latest trend in supermarkets is toward fully prepared fresh produce, including trimmed and peeled vegetables and washed and mixed salads. The salad selection at Marks & Spencer includes Californian, Italian and herb mixes, while Sainsbury's has just added 15 new lines to its Fresh 'n' Ready range.

Some fish species, including herring, mackerel and sardine, are in short supply this week, but cod is in excellent condition and about £2.80 a lb for fillets.

Promotions include: Asda: all British beef prime cuts reduced by 20%. Cyprus loose potatoes 25p a lb, tomatoes 34p a lb, strawberries £1.09 for 454g.

Budgens: fresh haddock cutlets or fillets £5.76 a kg, tomatoes 99p for 750g, yellow Honeydew melons £1.29 each.

Co-op: fresh British topside/silverside beef £4.99 a kg, cooked peeled North Atlantic prawns £1.79 for 125g, garlic ciabatta bread 99p for 230g, diet lemonade 38p for 1.5 lt.

Harrods: marinated fish kebabs £4.49, English asparagus £2.99 for 354g.

Iceland: skinless chicken fillets £3.49 for 700g, salmon steaks £2.99 for 680g, trout £2.99 for 800g, garden peas

69p for 907g, chocolate ice cream £1.49 for 2 lt.

Marks & Spencer: reduced far prawn cocktail £1.69, lime fromage frais 99p for four, soft scoop ice cream £1.89 for 2lt.

Morrisons: whole trout £1.29 a lb, undyed smoked cod £2.25 a lb, plate fillet £3.25 a lb, oysters 39p each.

Safeway: skinless chicken thigh fillets £2.99 for six, cucumber and iceberg lettuce 49p, cherry tomatoes 99p a lb; Thompson white seedless grapes 89p a lb.

Sainsbury's: Greek-style marinated lamb kebabs £2.59 for 227g, Jersey Royal new potatoes 29p a lb, cucumbers 39p each, iceberg lettuce 49p each, Galia melons 99p each.

Somerfield: asparagus £1.59 for 250g, Lollo Rosso lettuce 49p each.

Tesco: fresh turkey stir fry £5.99 a kg, cod fillet £1.95 a kg, asparagus £1.99 a pack, spinach 49p for 250g, medium Galia melons 99p each.

Waitrose: lemon and pepper chicken £2.79 for 300g, breaded scallops £1.99 for 170g.

Gala melons £1.49 each, sweetcorn 99p for two, sarsaparilla 59p lb, blueberries £1.99 for 125g.

Woolworths: fresh fruit £1.99 for 500g, orange juice £1.99 for 1.5 lt.

Wilko: fresh fruit £1.99 for 500g, orange juice £1.99 for 1.5 lt.

Young's: fresh fruit £1.99 for 500g, orange juice £1.99 for 1.5 lt.

Zoopi: fresh fruit £1.99 for 500g, orange juice £1.99 for 1.5 lt.

THE TIMES FRIDAY MAY 31 1996

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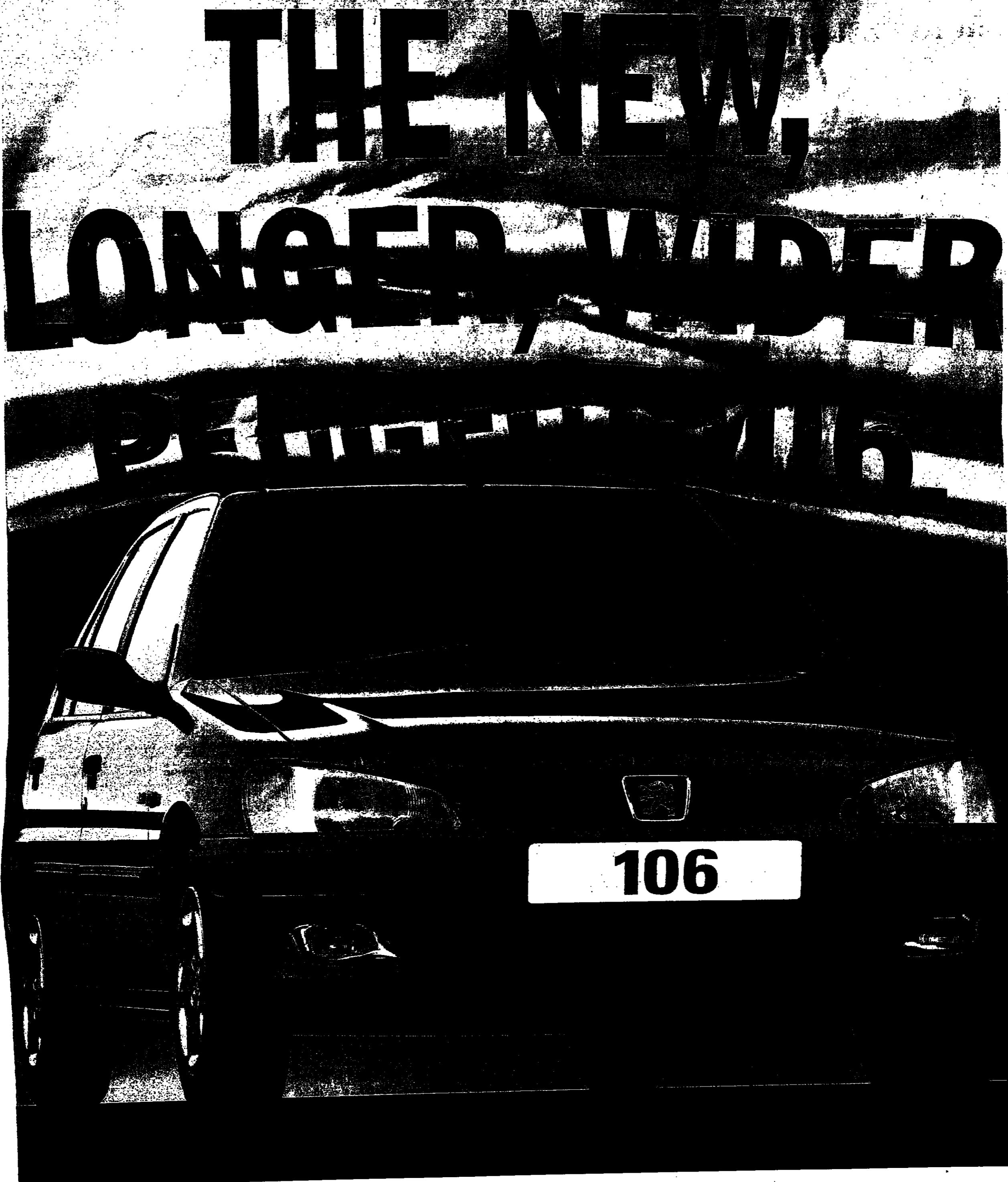
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ROBIN YOUNG

The upper classes in upper hand but discovered nice little silver cow creamer, ormolu clock auctio down to his last marquess who finds can now sell titles t crumpling.

Proper peerages r owners, but lordships offered on the open crockery at a car-bo manor convey no rig of Lords let alone L style oneself a peer, baubles, hangover bestow little more hold a market on la is the chance for th style themselves Crimdy Bottom: ha be no more elev Duke Ellington or Both Bristol a manorial titles up excite those arid gentility. Our gre their inheritance i stripper towards But it is perhaps some moneyed p swathe themselves a patch of almost

The title of Lar in medieval time



The new, longer, wider Peugeot 106 is many things. It is sleeker, smoother and more elegant.

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'Passenger shot dead after argument over minor road crash'

By ADRIAN LEE

A MAN was shot dead in a London street and his friend injured as they argued with a motorist over who was to blame for a minor traffic accident.

Detectives said they were as yet unsure whether the incident was another example of "road rage". The 35-year-old victim was a passenger in a Mitsubishi Lancer which apparently failed to stop after colliding with a dark sports car at 1pm on Monday, police disclosed yesterday.

The sports car pursued the Mitsubishi at high speed for a mile through north London before there was a dispute over who should pay for the damage. A handgun was produced and one man was shot twice in the head. He died at the roadside. Another passenger, aged 41, was shot in the face at close range, but survived. The 33-year-old driver of the Mitsubishi was threatened, but escaped across wasteland.

The survivors have told

detectives that they did not know their attacker. Witnesses said they saw their red Lancer estate being chased by the sports car, driven by a man who was waving a stick out of a window. The two vehicles, which had collided in Seven Sisters Road at Manor House, north London, stopped in Surrey Gardens, Harringay, where there was a fight.

The dead man was a Ghanaian-born German who was on holiday in Britain. The injured man, who is also Ghanaian but lives in London, was released from hospital after treatment.

The killer was described as white, in his 30s, 5ft 8in tall, well built and with a London accent.

Detective Chief Inspector Glenn Gilberston, who is leading the inquiry, said: "I personally don't like to use the term road rage because I believe it trivialises what can be a serious matter. There are still a lot of questions to be answered, but at the moment

it appears to be something that followed on from a belligerent incident between drivers."

Detectives said they believed the weapon used was a .22 handgun, which has not been recovered.

Mr Gilberston said he was anxious to find witness. "What I am keen to do is to trace anyone who saw any part of that incident who may be able to give us some lead as to whether that was the root cause of the incident, or whether it perhaps goes back further than that."

Sandy Myles, 47, a market researcher, who lives in the cul-de-sac where the man was shot, heard gunshots. "I looked out the front door and saw a group of men screaming and yelling. There was no street lighting so it was hard to see. I phoned 999 and went to have another look. I heard one gunshot immediately shut the door, then there were two more." He then called an ambulance.

The Manchester United players and staff of 1959, including Bishop Auckland left-winger Warren Bradley, circled, who went on to play for England.

Blair tackles United over debt to stricken amateurs

By PAUL WILKINSON

TONY BLAIR is calling on Manchester United to repay a debt of honour and save a famous non-league team threatened with extinction. The amateurs of Bishop Auckland, close to the Labour leader's Sedgefield constituency in Co Durham, are facing bankruptcy after agreeing to pay £30,000 damages to a visiting player injured in a tackle.

Mr Blair wrote to the Cup and League winners this week, reminding them that Bishop Auckland helped

them out after the Munich air disaster 35 years ago. Many of United's young stars were killed or injured and Bishops loaned the Manchester club several players to enable it to complete its fixtures.

Mr Blair said: "When the tragic Munich air crash occurred and Manchester were unable to turn out a team to complete their league fixture, Bishop Auckland came to their rescue. Bob Hardisty captained the reserves and helped bring on the young players, while Warren Bradley played

left wing for the first team and within a few weeks was playing for the full England side.

Bishop Auckland's generosity at this time should be included in the great sporting stories of all time. It would be very sad to see this club disappear. Bishop Auckland holds a special place in the hearts of most people in the North East."

Bishop Auckland is a founder member of the Football Association and has won a series of honours in its 110-year history. The club, which was not insured, faces closure over damages it must pay by June 6 to George

Shepherd, a Macclesfield Town player, who suffered a broken leg.

Local people have rallied round to raise more than £13,000, to be boosted by a sports day on Sunday. So far, approaches to Manchester United and neighbouring giants Newcastle United have gone unanswered. Steve Newcomb, Bishops' chairman, said he hoped the Labour leader's intervention would produce a result: "It is wonderful to know such a senior politician has time to help."

Football, pages 38, 39 & 44

Murdering Thai monk reprieved

By ANDREW DRUMMOND



Ustinov: dual role

A diploma for Poirot

By PAUL WILKINSON

SIR PETER USTINOV is to collect an honorary diploma from a leading forensic science academy on behalf of his screen persona, the Agatha Christie detective Hercule Poirot. He will join 50 police awarded diplomas from a two-year course at the National Training Centre for Scientific Support to Crime Investigation, near Crook, Co Durham.

The qualification, the first of its kind, is accredited by Durham University, where Sir Peter is the Chancellor. Peter Ablett, the centre's director, said: "His portrayal of Poirot and his close links with Durham University make him a natural choice for the honorary award. The course recognises the importance of examinations at the scene of the crime."

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Lake: lost 5 stone

Gulf War victim is 'cured' in America

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A VETERAN of the Gulf War who suffered a life-threatening illness after the conflict says he has been cured by treatment in America. Robert Lake, a former REME corporal, was one of the worst-affected of a growing number of veterans claiming to suffer from Gulf War syndrome.

A year ago he was in a wheelchair and losing weight. After intensive treatment at a clinic in Texas, paid for by the Army Benevolent Fund, he has been able to "throw his wheelchair into the garage".

Mr Lake, 28, whose weight fell from 13 stone to 8 stone, said yesterday: "The treatment has changed my life."

His illness was attributed to the anti-nerve gas injections and tablets he took to counter the feared threat from Iraqi chemical and biological warfare attacks.

Mr Lake, who lives in Yorkshire with his parents, was treated by the American Environmental Health Foundation in Dallas with an antibody developed for veterans suffering from supposed Gulf War syndrome.

Virginia Murray, a consultant in occupational and environmental toxicology at Guy's Hospital, London, said that detoxification was not a routine method of treatment for this type of illness. Other Gulf War veterans would similarly benefit from the same treatment.

Children of migrant Irish hit by high death rates

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

CHILDREN of Irish immigrants are suffering far higher mortality rates than the rest of Britain's population, but no one can explain why.

Among men of working age with Irish parents, death rates are 26 per cent higher than for those from British families, a study has revealed. For women the difference is greater, at 29 per cent. The gap is still wider in the 15 to 44 age group — men are 45 per cent more likely to die and women 64 per cent more likely.

The difference persists even when corrected for social class and covers most major causes of death. Cancer was especially common among Irish men of working age and among women over 60.

The figures, published in the *British Medical Journal*, come from a study by Seán Ó Catháin of the Office for National Statistics and Professor Sararaman Balasubramanian of Surrey University. Using the 1971 census, they identified a group of 6,308 people aged 15 or over, born in Britain to parents born in Ireland. Those who had died by 1989 — a total of 1,548 — were identified from the NHS central register and the death rate compared with figures for people of British parentage.

Those born of Irish parents had higher rates of death for most of the major causes, including cancer, heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease in men, injuries and suicides. Only in deaths from stroke did they have a lower death rate.

Ms Ó Catháin says that a precisely similar sample is not available to compare these figures with death rates in Ireland. An earlier study has shown that first-generation Irish immigrants suffer higher death rates than those they leave behind.

"This is unusual for immigrant groups," Ms Ó Catháin says. "Usually they are healthier than the people who remain in the country of origin." It has been argued, she says, that the ease of immigration from Ireland to Britain may have encouraged the less healthy to migrate, explaining higher death rates in first-generation immigrants.

The findings clearly show that the second-generation Irish continue to experience adverse mortality risks, particularly at younger ages," the authors say in *BMJ*. In a commentary, John Haskey, a statistician from the Office of National Statistics suggests that some important elements of "being Irish" persist beyond the initial migration — but it remains unclear what these are. The fact that many people of Irish extraction live in big towns and are over-represented in manual occupations is not enough to explain the figures.



Rachel Howker, 11, who has been released from hospital in Tampa, Florida, after emergency surgery for a heart condition. Rachel, from Manchester, was on a trip to Disney World when she collapsed. She is expected home on Monday

Cervical cancer vaccine 'hopeful'

THE first trials of a vaccine against cervical cancer have shown encouraging results, a British team has reported.

The cancer, one of the commonest among women, is strongly linked to the human papillomavirus (Nigel Hawkes writes).

Together with scientists from the Paterson Institute in Manchester and Cantab Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge, the team injected 100 women with late-stage cervical cancer with a single dose of the virus. There were no significant side-effects, and three of the women developed anti-

bodies against HPV. While six of the eight have died, two are alive, 15 and 21 months after the vaccination.

One woman developed the disease in 1986. She had surgery and radiotherapy but in July 1994 cancer was still present. After the vaccination it disappeared, and she remains well.

"We cannot conclude that the vaccination was responsible but the observation warrants further investigation," the team reports.

Gene analysis endorses Africa evolution theory

GENETIC analysis has lent strong support to the idea that modern humans evolved relatively recently from a subset of the African populations.

A team led by Dr John Armour, of the University of Nottingham, has found that African populations have a wider range of variations in a section of DNA than people from anywhere else. This means modern man has been evolving longer in Africa. The rest

of us have a narrower range of variation, having originated relatively recently from a subset of the African populations.

Although estimates of the rate of mutation published today in *Nature Genetics* suggest that this was only 15,000 years ago, Dr Celia May said yesterday that the team had since confirmed that mutation rates suggest the point of separation was 150,000 years ago.

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From Onan to the Pill — history's precautionary tale

MEDICAL BRIEFING

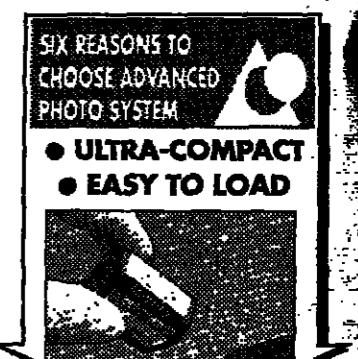
THE history of contraception dates from at least 4000 BC, or even earlier if the historical accuracy of the book of Genesis is accepted: by the 39th chapter Onan, who realised that family solidarity would not be improved if his brother's wife conceived his child, was practising the withdrawal method.

Delegates to the annual meeting of the Faculty of Family Planning and Health Care at Regent's College in London today will be able to view a museum of contraception. The exhibits were collected by a Canadian, Percy Skuy, and have been brought over from Ontario by Janssen-Cilag Pharmaceuticals.

By 1500 BC a method using a medicated lint vaginal sponge was popular. Strangely the ancients had hit upon a method which, even if it would not pass today's stringent drug regulations, did have some effect on conception as the lint was soaked in a mixture of acacia, dates and honey. Acacia ferments into lactic acid, which is still in use as a spermicide.

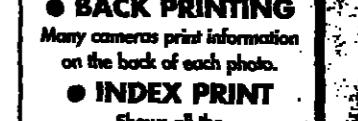
Early Egyptians also wore condoms but, as is advocated today, they were used as much to prevent the spread of disease as prevent conception. Strangely, the wearing of a condom — and its type — denoted the social rank of the male. The Egyptian women could recognise the status of their lover by the style of his condom. As in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, the ancient Egyptian condoms were made from animal guts.

By the second century AD, various forms of tampons, sponges, vaginal plugs and pessaries were in use. In the more exotic parts of the world, crocodile or elephant dung was mixed with sodium bicarbonate to form a pessary, but in the more sophisticated societies lemon juice or vinegar was



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There's a great deal going on

Poll shows young and affluent favour staying in Europe

BY PETER RIDDELL

PUBLIC attitudes to the European Union are sharply divided along lines of party, gender, class, income and age, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

The poll shows that, by a small majority, the public still favours British membership of the EU, but there has been a big increase in opposition to further integration, in particular a Supreme Court of Europe and strengthening the European Parliament.

Europe is now much higher on people's list of concerns. The proportion of those mentioning it as among the most important issues facing Britain has risen over the past month by nine points to 29 per cent, its highest since November 1991. It still lags behind unemployment, health and education.

Undertaken last weekend after the Government announced its policy of non-cooperation over the beef ban, the poll shows that three-fifths of the public favour a referendum on whether Britain should leave the EU. This is broadly the same as when the question was last asked, a year ago.

If such a referendum were held, 44 per cent would now want Britain to stay in, with 39 per cent wanting Britain to get out. This net balance of five points compares with seven in October 1993 and a peak of 34 points in 1990. But in the early 1980s, when Labour opposed entry, there was a sizeable majority in favour of getting out.

Support for staying in the EU is highest among long-term supporters of the Labour Party and is lowest among Liberal Democrat loyalists. This reflects the long-term paradox that Liberal Democrat supporters are the most

posed in October 1993. These show, for example, a slight increase in opposition to a single European currency, with the net balance of those against such a move rising from 27 to 35 points.

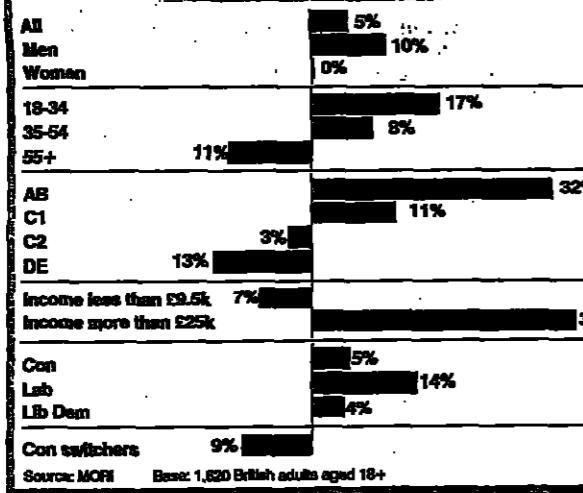
But the most striking change concerns legal and political integration. The net balance supporting a common system of legal practice has dropped from 43 to 28 points. A 13-point balance in favour of introducing a Supreme Court of Europe has been transformed into a 3-point balance against. This shift reflects the controversy and media publicity surrounding the rulings of the European Court of Justice.

Opposition to transferring some powers to the European Parliament from national parliaments has also risen, with the balance against rising from 39 to 46 points.

□ MORI interviewed 1,620 adults at 137 ward sampling points, May 23-26.

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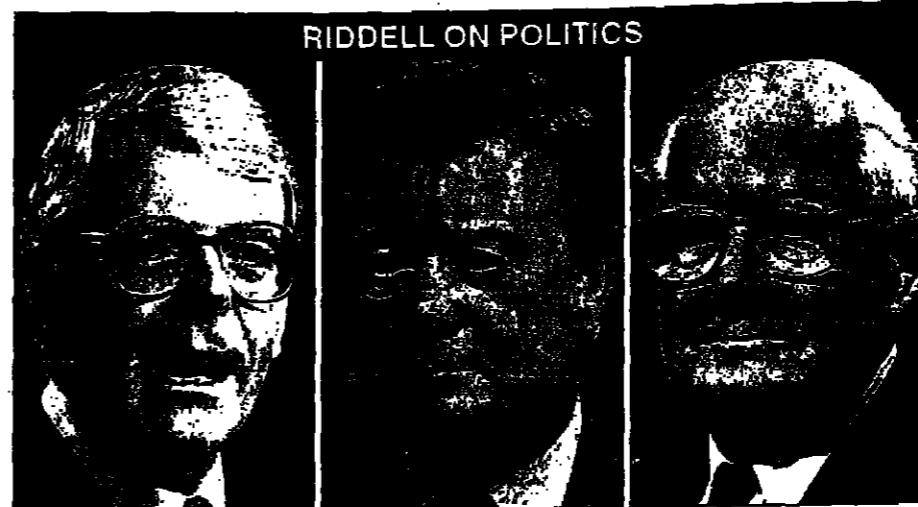
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Making waves will not turn electoral tide

RIDDELL ON POLITICS



Major's beef war will not sway voters as much as Clarke's economic arguments, but both are vulnerable to the kind of sea change that Callaghan predicted

THE public favours a tough line over the beef crisis and is becoming more sceptical about Europe but is unwilling to give any credit to the Government. Yesterday's MORI poll for *The Times*, the first survey of voting intentions since Britain began its policy of non-cooperation, started party strategists.

Even those of us who believed that non-cooperation was diplomatically mistaken and would be politically counter-productive in the long term thought that the Tories might receive at least some short-term boost in the polls. But that has not happened, at any rate not yet. It is starting to dawn on some Tory MPs and strategists that the Commons cheer of ten days ago and the still jingoism of the tabloids means nothing.

There are three probable explanations. First, that the tough action against Brussels mainly appeals to committed Tory supporters rather than to wavering voters. Second, that most people blame the Government rather than Brussels for the beef crisis. Third, and perhaps most worrying for the Tories, the public, in particular voters who have deserted the Tories

since the 1992 election, have given up on the Government. This suggests that John Major can do little to change their views, or rather to persuade enough of them to return to the fold to save the election.

Even though the economy

optimism index. Unlike previous upturns, the link between improvements in economic optimism and voting intentions has become much looser. The recovery in Tory ratings over the past 18 months has been much smaller than the pick-up in optimism.

The MORI economic optimism index — measuring those who think that the general economic condition will improve rather than get worse over the next 12 months — stands at -10

points. While it was -6 points at the end of April, the underlying trend is upwards. But the Tory rating has been flat since the autumn. Just as the Government is getting little credit for the economic recovery, so it is getting no benefit over the beef crisis.

That interpretation ties in with the view of Tory fatalists who believe that the "time for a change" mood will counterbalance any further pick-up in economic optimism. Some more pessimistic Tories recall Lord Callaghan of Car-

diff's famous comment, towards the end of the 1979 election campaign, about sea changes in public attitudes once in a generation which parties cannot resist.

The most recent polls suggest that the public has made up its mind. Of course, the precise figures in the latest polls, or in the local elections a month ago, will not be repeated at a general election. Polls can forecast elections like that. But they do indicate the size of the task faced by the Tories and how dramatic initiatives such as the confrontation with Brussels over beef are unlikely to change these views.

Instead, all the Tories can do is to be patient, avoid unnecessary and probably doomed risks like non-cooperation and seek to highlight flaws in Labour's approach. As Kenneth Clarke said in his interview with *The Times* yesterday, the Tories' best — indeed, probably only — card is to argue that people would become even better off and that unemployment would fall further as long as they elected the Tories rather than Labour. It will probably not be enough, but the Tories do not have any other cards left.

PETER RIDDELL

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Alarm raised over wave of attacks on visitors to China

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

THE Foreign Office has issued a new warning to travellers in China about increasing attacks on foreigners.

Thefts and muggings in the main cities and crime on trains are increasing, as are thefts on overnight train and coach journeys. "Foreigners are now regular targets," the Foreign Office says.

Until recently, foreigners were regarded as a kind of "protected species" in China, unlikely to come to harm. But free-market reforms, growing disparities of wealth, corruption, and the influx of landless peasants seeking jobs in cities have created a new situation.

Long-term foreign residents recall the days, especially up to 1976 when Mao Tse-tung was still alive, when it was difficult to leave behind a discarded razor-blade or lipstick in a hotel room, because it might follow the guest to the next destination just in case it had been "forgotten". But those days are long past.

The Foreign Office also gives a warning of extortion attempts against foreign business people staying in top-class hotels. The likely modus operandi is: a Chinese woman strikes up a conversation with a foreign man in the hotel bar; when he returns to his room, accomplices claiming to be police officers knock on his

I feared a knife might be held to my ribs but I kept alert and the danger passed

thought to be the motive. While travelling on the back of a crowded bus in Guangdong province, Graham Hutchings, a correspondent for *The Daily Telegraph*, heard two men in front of him discussing how they might get hold of his money-belt. "I was concerned and wondered if I might get a knife held to my ribs, but I stayed alert and the danger passed," Hutchings said.

Recently a German woman was stabbed in Tiananmen

BASIC RULES FOR TRAVELLERS

- Never open your hotel room door unless you know who is on the other side. You can buy police uniforms in shops in most Chinese cities and, given that many "policemen" may not be that at all, agree to see them only in the presence of senior hotel staff.
- Keep your money in your pocket and your camera bag on your bunk on trains and buses, and sit near the front of the bus close to the driver. In crowded department stores or buses keep money and passports in trouser pockets or, for women, inside a jacket, and beware the jostling crowds.
- Chat to the cheerful girls haunting hotel coffee shops and buy them an ice-cream, but leave it at that. AIDS is spreading from Yunnan province to other areas and may be a timebomb. Stay clear of the growing drug scene.
- Beware hotel staff in anything other than four-star or five-star establishments.
- Remember that most Chinese would never harm you: they have become victims themselves, so do not let paranoia take over. Yet abandon the notion that nothing bad can happen in China, and adapt the prudence one would maintain in most other developing countries.

door, saying that the woman has made an accusation of sexual harassment. They then make sometimes violent demands for money.

Last March David Swindells, 59, a British businessman, died of stab wounds in his room at the five-star Shangri-La Hotel in Shenzhen, a free-wheeling city near Hong Kong. Robbery was

HAVING travelled extensively in some of the world's most violent countries — Colombia, Zaire, Uganda, (under Idi Amin), Somalia and Cambodia — and never having encountered a serious problem, the last place I expected to find trouble was China. I therefore recently boarded a bus in Wenzhou, on China's east coast, for a ten-hour overnight journey to Fuzhou, in Fujian province, unconnected about security.

As I settled into my cramped bunk with my padlocked suitcase and briefcase containing a laptop computer below me on the one-third full coach, I thought there would be no problem, although I did notice that a young woman had chained her suitcase by padlock to the bunk support.

We ground on in the dark and rain over two mountain ranges: the noise was intense and I was not conscious of sleeping, but the next morning I found that my computer and printer taken, and the padlock on the suitcase had been picked, items removed and then relocked.

Fuzhou residents suggested it was as well I had not interrupted the theft, as anything could have happened.

The police said that foreigners were being targeted and they promised to "strike heavy blows" at criminals operating between Fujian and Zhejiang provinces.

Later that day, while buying replacements for my stolen possessions in a Fuzhou department store, I was jostled by some *mingong* (rural transient labourers) and felt a hand dip quickly into my jacket pocket. I thought of knives and decided against making an issue of it. But the sense that I was in some kind of Kafkaesque nightmare began to grow.

In the past year in China, I have seen knife fights between gangs, probably Triads, in the lobby of a government hotel in Shenzhen, near Hong Kong, seen bloody street fights in Guangzhou, and been disturbed in hotel rooms in Fujian province by silken-voiced *xiaojies* (Misses) calling up to my room and offering sex for money.

THE Socialist opposition in Albania gave a warning yesterday that the country could slide into civil war after this week's chaotic general election, which international observers said was marred by blatant fraud.

The confusion threatens to destabilise one of the West's key allies in the Balkans.

Yesterday Flavio Cotti, the Swiss Foreign Minister and chairman of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which supplied the international monitors, called for a partial rerun of the election "for the sake of democratic stability".

But President Berisha insisted that his Democratic Party had won a fair two-thirds majority. While he conceded yesterday that some irregularities had taken place, he rejected suggestions that these had influenced the outcome, promising four years of sweeping reforms.

The opposition parties withdrew the central mosque — 70 per cent of Albanians are Muslim — and a children's fun fair.

President Berisha, the former heart surgeon who has ruled Albania since 1992, had been admired in the West because of his attempts to open up this once isolated country and to encourage foreign investment. "The tables have turned," one Western observer said. "Once Berisha was the man who brought down the paranoid and despotic Communists. Now the former Communists — who have become the Socialists — see themselves as the democratic underdogs, with the President reverting to authoritarian habits."

In the 1992 elections the Democratic Party won a landslide, but economic problems — half the workforce is unemployed — have eroded Dr Berisha's popularity. His party nonetheless won 95 of the 140 seats in parliament.

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مكتبة مصرية



ARTS 31-33

The Blue Nile: pop perfectionists with a very slow fuse



EDUCATION 35

Michael Barber on solving the nation's literacy crisis



ARTS 31

Loving tribute to Thirties musical escapism

THE TIMES 2



BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY MAY 31 1996

OECD optimistic despite cut in this year's growth forecast

UK 'on course for inflation target'

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE British economy will grow by only 2 per cent this year — far lower than the Chancellor's forecast — but is set fair for health growth and low inflation in the long-term because of the structural economic reforms of the past 15 years, according to a new report from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

As reported in *The Times* last week, the OECD revised its forecast for growth this

year down to 2 per cent from the 2.4 per cent it predicted in December. This is largely due to the unexpected sharp slowdown in continental European economies as members of the European Union attempt to cut their budget deficits in line with the Maastricht criteria.

The OECD's new projection leaves Kenneth Clarke's Budget forecast of 3 per cent this year even more isolated. It now seems a racing certainty that this will be revised down when the Treasury unveils its Summer Forecast in July.

In an interview with *The*

Times yesterday, Mr Clarke came the closest yet to conceding that he will have to lower his forecast. He said: "I will revise my target, perhaps, if in July it is obvious we have been a bit optimistic but I see no point in revising it now." He admitted that other people had forecasts which were "getting a lot lower than mine".

Gordon Brown, Shadow Chancellor, wrote to Mr Clarke yesterday, asking him to comment on the new OECD forecast. He said: "Just as happened last year, it would appear that growth will be lower than your forecast."

Under these circumstances, will you either justify your own forecast, or accept the OECD's forecast and spell out the implications for our public finances?" The Chancellor is expected to invite Mr Brown to wait until the Summer Forecast.

Mr Clarke yesterday took an upbeat view of the OECD report, emphasising that the organisation was expecting the current slowdown in the British economy to be temporary and for growth to pick up strongly later this year and through into 1997. The OECD is predicting 2.75 per cent

growth next year coupled with inflation dropping to the 2.5 per cent targeted by the Government. It also expects unemployment to fall further and that the current account will remain near to balance. It said that, should the current slowdown in growth prove to be more pronounced, the benign inflation outlook would provide scope for a further cut in interest rates, although it urged caution.

The OECD expressed some disappointment about the slippage that has been seen in getting the budget deficit down but seemed relatively

sanguine because the public finances are continuing to improve overall.

Most pleasing for the Government is broad praise for its handling of macro-economic policy decisions over the past three years, which the OECD said had laid a sound foundation for sustained economic recovery. It praised the structural reforms to the economy undertaken by the Conservatives since 1979 which had made Britain "more flexible and less inflation-prone economy". It suggested that labour market reforms had lowered the rate of unemployment at

which inflation does not accelerate to around 7 per cent or just below, implying that unemployment can fall further from current levels before igniting price pressures. The OECD said that Britain had a relatively good record at job creation and unemployment compared with many continental countries.

But the OECD also expressed concern about intractable problems such as long-term unemployment and Britain's relatively poor education standards compared with its main competitors. This gap needs to be closed, it said.

ADRIAN SHERRATT

FTSE 100	3746.7	(-20.0)
Yield	4.03%	
FTSE All share	1884.42	(-17.87)
Index	21886.38	(-195.15)
New York		
Dow Jones	5645.76	(-20.07)*
S&P Composite	664.91	(-3.02)*
Federal Funds	5.14%	(5.04%)
Long Bond Yield	6.96%	(6.95%)
3-month Interbank	6.1%	(6.0%)
Libor	10.5%	(10.5%)
New York		
S	1,5345*	(1,5311)
London		
S	1,5348	(1,5183)
DM	2,3514	(2,3477)
FFR	7,9515	(7,9444)
SPR	1,0250	(1,0229)
Yen	165.12	(165.51)
E Index	85.7	(85.4)
US		
London		
DM	1,5322*	(1,5320)
FFR	5,1870*	(5,2010)
SPR	1,2694*	(1,2619)
Yen	107.42	(108.14)
S Index	97.0	(97.7)
Tokyo close Yen	108.25	
Brent 15-day (Aug)	\$17.70	(\$18.15)
London close	\$381.20	(\$381.25)

* denotes midday trading price

Export boost

Record exports helped Britain cut its visible trade deficit with the rest of the world. The deficit declined from £1.3 billion in February to £800 million in March while the underlying trade deficit fell from £1.5 billion to £1.5 billion in February. Page 24

Defences

South West Water strengthened its defence against impending bids from Severn Trent and Wessex, two other water companies, with a higher than expected dividend, promises of further increases to come, and a £6.9 million rebate to customers in its West Country area of operations. Page 25, *Tempus* 26



Sir Desmond Pitcher, right, United Utilities chairman, and Brian Staples, chief executive. The group reported for the first time yesterday

Multi-utility to seek alliances

UNITED UTILITIES, which supplies water and electricity in the North West, is seeking alliances with generators and gas producers ahead of the deregulation of the electricity market in 1998 (Christine Buckley writes).

United's electricity business suffered a £30 million profit fall in the year to March 31. The company, which recently raised domestic prices by 4.9 per cent, largely blamed the high prices it had to pay for electricity. Group pre-tax profits rose 34.8 per cent to £46.2 million, the first figures since the integration of North West Water and Norweb last autumn.

A £103.8 million charge was taken to restructure the businesses. The final dividend rose 11 per cent, to 19.59p, making 32.66p (25.55p).

Pennington, page 25

HSBC set to retreat over £16m bonuses

BY OLIVER AUGUST

DIRECTORS at HSBC Holdings, the parent company of Midland Bank, look set to back down over their controversial £16 million incentive scheme, after intense pressure from shareholders ahead of today's annual meeting.

In discussions with representatives from major shareholders, HSBC said that the terms for directors' remuneration would not be operated as set out in the annual report. The six directors are currently in line for a compound bonus of up to £16 million for what is described as "mediocre performance".

Anne Simpson, a director of Pensions and Investment Research Consultants (PIRC),

which represents institutional shareholders, said: "It is not acceptable that they give us private reassurances that they won't pay themselves as much as they actually can under the terms of the scheme. We want it in writing."

PIRC is expecting considerable shareholder opposition to the HSBC scheme, unless the directors issue new written conditions. Under the current conditions, directors will be eligible for bonuses if earnings per share grow by at least 2 per cent above inflation, which is in line with Treasury growth forecasts for the economy as a whole.

Pennington, page 25

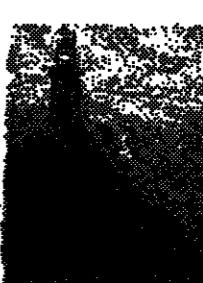
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Societies seek to win over bank customers

By MARIANNE CURPHY

BUILDING societies are stepping up their campaign to poach customers from high street banks by drawing up a charter promising good service and high savings rates. It is expected to be in place by the end of the year and will spell out the societies' commitment to mutuality and to offering some of the most competitive deals in the market.

Bradford & Bingley, Yorkshire, Nationwide and Coventry building societies believe the charter is the best way to deter speculators and encourage long-term savers. They believe that over the next two years members who stayed put to ensure they were paid share windfalls when their societies converted to banks will be looking for a new home for their money.

Brian Davies, chairman of the

Building Societies Association and chief executive of the Nationwide, said there would be a number of new initiatives. "Societies are in competition with each other but we do have some things in common — the key is we are owned by customers and we don't give money away to shareholders," he said.

David Holmes, Yorkshire's communications manager said: "Next year will be a huge opportunity for us when we believe we will see thousands of people deserting the banks and coming flooding back to us when they realise the difference in rates on offer."

The Nationwide is to succeed Endsleigh Insurance as sponsor of the Football League for the next three years at a cost of £5.25 million.

US compliance chief accused of inside deal

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

A FORMER executive of Bankers Trust who was responsible for ensuring the New York bank's employees did not violate US securities laws has been arrested and charged with insider dealing.

Nir Kantor, 39, who was vice-president of compliance, has been charged by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) with using information gained within the bank to trade in shares of Caesar's World before its takeover by ITT Corp, a Bankers client, in 1994. He faces a maximum penalty of ten years in prison and a \$1 million fine.

The charges come at a time when Bankers is getting over being embroiled in court actions in which clients claimed it mis-sold derivatives products in the

early 1990s. Bankers recently settled out of court a multi-million dollar case brought by Procter & Gamble.

The SEC alleges that Mr Kantor bought and sold call options in Caesar's World even though it was on the bank's "Grey List" of companies about which Bankers has inside information and in whose shares employees are not allowed to deal. Mr Kantor's job was to enforce that ban.

Mr Kantor learned of the Caesar's World deal, in which Bankers was advising ITT, at a compliance meeting. The SEC claims that he passed the information to Hanan Waizman, a cousin, who also profited from it. Mr Kantor allegedly bought option contracts on the shares and sold them when the takeover became public.

For further information on the range of services available please fax or send this coupon for the attention of Robert Turner or Neil Breslin:

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Record exports make little impact on deficit trend

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

RECORD exports helped Britain to cut its visible trade deficit. The deficit declined from £1.3 billion in February to £800 million in March, ahead of City expectations, while the underlying trade deficit, excluding oil and erratics, fell from £1.8 billion to £1.5 billion in February.

Total exports increased by 3.5 per cent in March to £13.5 billion, although half the rise was accounted for by exports of precious stones. But the deficit in the first

quarter of this year widened to £3.5 billion from £3.2 billion in the last quarter of 1995. There was also concern over figures showing that the trade deficit with non-EU countries increased sharply in April to £868 million from £676 million in March, although half of the increase was because of a big jump in aircraft orders.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS), which prepared the trade figures, described the deficit trend as "flat", but many economists

fear that the recent pick-up in consumer activity will lead to the deficit widening later in the year as the country sucks in imports.

Over the first quarter, total exports rose 3 per cent, with export growth to the EU outstripping the growth in exports to the rest of the world and narrowing the EU trade deficit. First-quarter import growth totalled 3.5 per cent, with a 4 per cent rise in imports from EU countries. The ONS also published a

major revision to the trade figures for last year, showing that prices were weaker than expected and volume growth much stronger, although the overall value of trade figures is unchanged. Export volume growth in the last quarter of 1995, for instance, has been adjusted to 4.1 per cent year-on-year, compared with a previous estimate of 2.8 per cent. The revised figures imply that manufacturing growth was much stronger than previously estimated in 1995. This extra growth should show through in a positive revision of 1995 GDP growth figures from 2.5 to 2.6 per cent.

A Treasury spokesman said: "The fact that prices were weaker than expected and volumes stronger is good news for competitiveness and inflation."

But economists said the revised figures will have limited impact on the disappointing first-quarter GDP figures as the change in export prices for manufacturers this year has not been very different from that suggested by the revised figures.

Anthony Harris, page 27

US growth is revised down

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

AMERICAN growth in the first quarter was revised down yesterday as business cut stock levels instead of building them up as the US Government had thought.

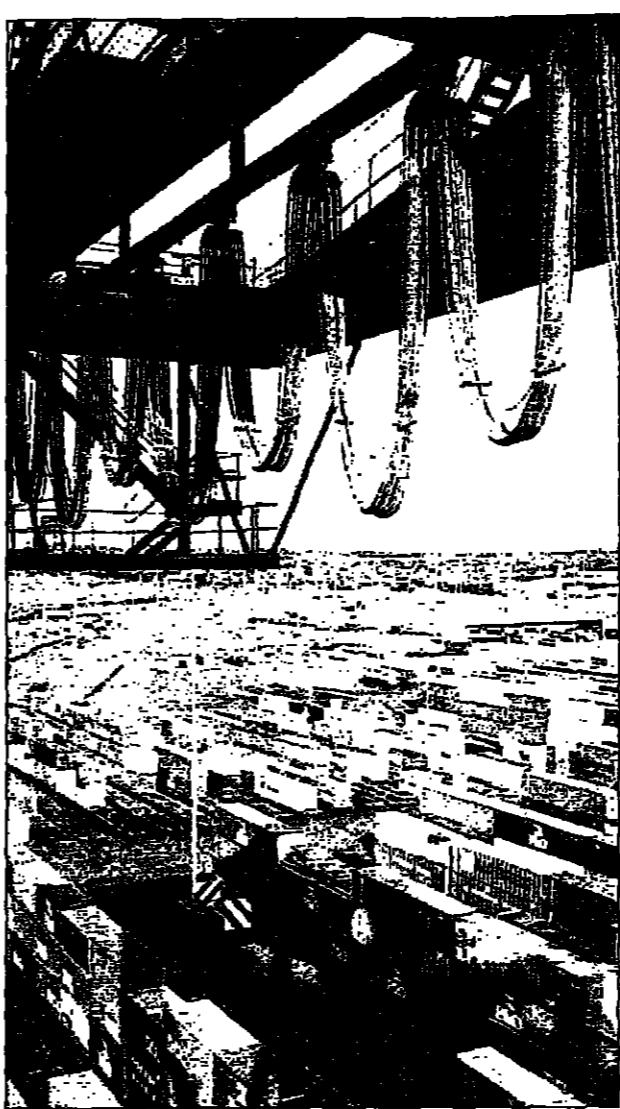
Gross domestic product is now judged to have risen 2.3 per cent, instead of 2.8 per cent, much less than the 2.7 per cent that Wall Street economists expected. This shows how

hard it is to forecast growth when there are big swings in stock levels, but does not materially change analysts' view of the US economy.

The 2.3 per cent is still far stronger than the 0.5 per cent growth in the final quarter of 1995, and economists expect growth to have strengthened in the second quarter, not least because consumer

spending is robust and more of this will be met from new production rather than stocks.

The Bundesbank left German interest rates unchanged and kept a fixed money market repo rate rather than reverting to a variable one, which might have signalled a desire to trim interest rates further.



Britain's total exports increased 3.5 per cent in March

Stock Exchange clears way for trading reforms

By PATRICIA TEAHAN AND ROBERT MILLER

THE Stock Exchange has cleared the way for reform with publication of proposals for electronic trading services.

The Exchange will spend next month consulting market participants and has sought responses to its proposals by July 12. These were formulated after earlier consultations. Giles Vardey, director of markets development, said the responses would be made public and he hoped the new system would be in place by next summer.

The Securities & Investments Board yesterday outlined its plans for a parallel consultation process seeking views on how tax privileges should be allocated to the firms that put their own capital at risk in the new reformed trading system.

The SIB has set a three-week deadline for responses so that its advice on possible obligations for firms that wish to benefit from stamp duty relief can be fed into the exchange's consultation.

The Chancellor, who raises £1.2 billion a year from stamp

duty on share transactions, has already said that he sees "some merit" in keeping the tax benefits. But he will not give wholesale tax exemptions without the beneficiaries contributing something very tangible to the liquidity and transparency of London's share markets in return.

In its proposals yesterday, the Exchange detailed a new two-tier system for trading FTSE 100 shares. It expects more than 50 per cent of trading in them to be carried out via the new electronic order book. But to cope with institutional demand for big block trades and to maintain market liquidity, brokers known as "registered principal traders" (RPTs) will have an obligation to provide quotes to buy or sell large blocks of shares on request.

In order to ensure brokers use the order book system, the Exchange proposes that if shares are on the order book at the same price quoted by RPTs they must take the shares from the order book before trading their own stock.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

ISS shares hit by accounting errors

ISS-International, the contract cleaning group based in Denmark, saw its shares plunge 23 per cent yesterday after disclosing that accounting errors discovered at its US subsidiary could cost \$100 million. The company also announced the departure of its chief financial officer, Arthur Andersen has been replaced as auditor by KPMG, which will conduct a new audit on June 30.

ISS said that preliminary checks indicated that ISS Inc overstated profits by an accumulated \$30 million and underestimated liability insurance provisions by \$40 million. ISS shares, trading on the Copenhagen stock market, fell 32 Danish crowns to 131 crowns. ISS added that it would take between two and three years to restore the fortunes of its US business, which is now headed by British-born Martin O'Halloran, 42, who uncovered the irregularities while moving the American head offices from New York to Atlanta.

ING advances by 41%

ING, the Dutch banking group that bought Barings from the administrators last year, unveiled a 41.5 per cent rise in net profits to 736 million guilders (£280 million) in the first quarter of 1996. Pre-tax profits rose 44 per cent to 1.06 billion guilders. Banking profits were up 92.2 per cent to 490 million guilders, while insurance operations contributed 568 million guilders, up 17.8 per cent. The bank does not show the Barings results separately but said commission income in its banking operation rose 82.5 per cent to 595 million guilders.

Alpha profit warning

ALPHA AIRPORTS, the in-flight catering and airport retail group, yesterday gave warning to shareholders of an expected fall in half-year profits as a result of lower spending per passenger combined with losses from its UK kitchens. The group, which has 48 per cent of the UK in-flight catering market, said retail services and ground sales had been strong, but results would be hit by the loss of the British Airways contract last June. The shares fell 6p to 114p.

Emap 'auction' expected

SPECULATION is mounting that Emap, the media group, will soon announce that it intends to sell off its regional newspaper group. The asking price for the 77 core titles and supplements is said to be close to £220 million. It is understood that Northcliffe Newspapers, Johnstone Press and Newsquest Media Group will all be invited to bid for the regional newspaper group on a "closed auction" basis. Emap shares fell 4p to 70.4p.

Euro Telecom price set

SHARES in European Telecom, the international mobile phone company, will be priced at 115p when they come to the Stock Exchange via a placing next Thursday, valuing the company at £35.7 million. The company, which made pre-tax profits of £2.4 million on sales of £78 million in the year to March 31, will raise £6.5 million from the placing. It said that its outlook had been boosted by a national distribution deal with Orange, the mobile phone company.

Mid Kent surges

MID KENT WATER, the subject of a hostile takeover bid, yesterday reported a 48 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £12.3 million in the year to March 31, and a 90 per cent rise in the total dividend to 24p. The shares rose 33p to 468p. Sales rose to £41.3 million (£37 million) and earnings per share rose from 37.3p to 53.7p. The bid from the French groups General Utilities and Saur Water Services, has been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

UK 'must be' at EMU talks

JACK WIGGLESWORTH, chairman of the London International Financial Futures Exchange, gave warning at its annual meeting that leading City institutions could suffer if the Government is not at the centre of detailed EU negotiations for economic and monetary union.

"If EMU goes ahead, the City cannot stand aside. The exchange has no view as to whether the Government should take a decision to take the UK into EMU," he said. "But the Government must be at negotiating tables battling for the City's interests, and hence for those of the UK and of Europe itself, to the maximum extent possible".

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sale
Australia S	2.02	1.95
Austria Sch	17.92	16.02
Belgium Fr	51.25	48.95
Canada \$	2.207	2.047
China CNY	0.7550	0.7070
Denmark Kr	8.84	8.94
Finland Mks	7.82	7.17
France Fr	8.36	7.71
Germany Dm	2.50	2.29
Greece Dr	2.49	2.35
Hong Kong \$	12.49	11.49
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shek	5.43	4.78
Italy Lira	2400	2250
Japan Yen	173.40	162.40
Malta	0.594	0.529
Netherlands Gld	2.773	2.549
New Zealand \$	2.38	2.18
Norway Kr	1.12	1.04
Portugal Esc	253.00	244.50
Spain Pts	7.26	6.46
Sweden Kr	203.50	180.20
Switzerland Fr	2.06	1.98
Turkey Lir	12.4361	11.6381
USA \$	1.628	1.498
	Rates for small denominations. Bank rates only apply to purchases. Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to transfers of cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.	

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*Manufacturer's recommended retail price, correct at time of going to press, is for the XJ Executive including cost of delivery, number plates, a full tank of petrol and £140 for 12 months' road fund licence. *Offer applies to Jaguar Privilege finance schemes arranged prior to 31 August 1996 and excludes forecast costs, tyres, fluid and oil top-ups. Written quotations available on request from Jaguar Financial Services Limited, Turnford Place, Great Cambridge Road, Turnford, Hertfordshire, EN10 6NH. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status up to 18 year olds only.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

US interest rate threat hits shares and bonds

THE threat of higher American interest rates had the London stock market on the ropes, with both government bonds and equities suffering sharp falls.

Evidence of growing inflation was accompanied by threats from the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates. It left US treasury bonds nursing hefty losses and led to another sell-off in equities, prompting suggestions that the long awaited correction in New York's fortunes may be under way. Traders now fear a repeat of the sharp fall earlier this month.

London could offer little resistance to the bears. The FT-SE 100 index closed 29.0 points down at 3,746.7 having been almost 35 points lower at one stage. Trading conditions remained thin, with fewer than 700 million shares changing hands.

A profits warning from Redland, the tile and building products group, left the shares 8p lower at 398p. Rudolph Agnew told the annual meeting that bad weather conditions in Europe were likely to result in first-half profits being well down on the corresponding period last year.

He said conditions were recovering and the second half should be broadly in line with the second six months of last year. Volumes had returned to normal levels, but the underlying level was still below last year in most of its operating companies on the Continent.

Alpha Airports went into a tailspin, falling 6p to 16p after warning that first-half profits would fail to match those achieved last year. It blamed losses in its US kitchens operation and lower spending per passenger on flight catering. Granada Group, down 3p to 816p, continues to hold a 25 per cent stake in Alpha following its demerger.

United Utilities, the subject of last year's merger between Norweb and North West Water, fell 19p to 530p after failing to live up to expectations. Pre-tax profits were down 4 per cent at £27.6 million after restructuring costs totalling £123.8 million. The group complained that last year's drought had cost £24 million and that reservoirs were still only 40 per cent full.

South West Water, the subject of two bids from Severn Trent and Wessex, held steady at 671p after coming in with full-year figures at the top end



Shares in Redland, the building products group, slipped 8p

of expectations. Pre-tax profits were up from £63.2 million to £101.1 million. South West has made it clear it is opposed to both bids, which were referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission last week. But in what is seen as the first move in its defence, the group has raised the total dividend 11.5 per cent to 30.5p, with the promise of an increase.

British Gas has found a much-needed friend in SBC Warburg, rising 5p to 1891p after the broker decided to recommend the shares for the first time in four years. Warburg rates them a long-term buy and says their worth is nearer 278p. Next week Ofgas delivers its price review for the domestic side of the business.

ingly liberal dividend payment. It has also offered customers a 10p rebate costing almost £7 million. Severn Trent firms 8p to 603p, while Wessex fell 5p to 355p.

Mid Kent Holdings, which has also seen a £7 million bid from General Utilities and Saur Water Services, rival French companies, referred to the MMC weighed in with full-year figures showing pre-

giving an assurance back in 1989 they would not increase their 18 per cent stake. Mid Kent responded to the profits news with a rise of 33p to 468p.

The rest of the water companies came off the boil, prompted by hopes of a revival in takeover activity. Anglia firm another 4p to 603p in the wake of Wednesday's profits news. But profit-taking left the rest of the sector lower.

The losses accelerated to almost 11 at one stage before rallying to close off the bottom.

In the futures pit, the June series of the Long Gilt ended £1.16 lower at £105.16 as a total of 86,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 lost £1.32 while 9 per cent 2000 was £1.32 lower at £101.16.

□ NEW YORK: The Dow Jones industrial average remained under pressure in early trading after economic data sparked fears of accelerated economic growth. At midday, the index was down 28.07 points to 5,645.76.

London opened with losses stretching £1.2 in response to the overnight setback for US Treasury Bonds following the disappointing response to the two-year bond auction and talk that the Fed is poised to raise interest rates. The decision of the Bundesbank to peg German interest rates also dampened sentiment.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY MAY 31 1996



■ MUSICALS

The Covent Garden Festival hits its stride with the Thirties pastiche of *Dames at Sea* ...



■ OPERA

... and, from Dublin, a fine production of Handel's early "magic" opera, *Amadigi*

THE ARTS

■ DANCE

New York gets a taste of the Mark Morris *Orfeo* that will come to this summer's Edinburgh Festival



■ TOMORROW

Spend a little time with me: the indefatigable Shirley Bassey opens her Festival Hall residency

MUSICAL THEATRE: Loving tribute to Thirties escapism; *Orfeo* in New York; a fine Irish Handel

Writing 'em like they used to

Dames at Sea
Ambassadors

Unashamedly, *Dames at Sea* is aimed at an audience which loved and grew up with the Warner musicals of the 1930s, in which the likes of Ruby Keeler went out an unknown and came back a star. Forget the sweat and grit of *A Chorus Line*. This is the old Broadway dream, served up with some neat lyrics full of the names Cole Porter might have drawn on when working at slightly less than full pressure.

George Halmsohn and Rob Miller pretend to have written a pastiche and elicit friendly laughs from a wisp of a plot about Ruby, the girl from Utah, who arrives on the Great White Way with nothing but a wide smile, good legs and a pair of little red tap shoes. Joanne Farrell has the first two and makes excellent use of the third within the limits of the tiny Ambassadors stage. She is always going to be the girl most likely to succeed when the leading lady breaks down.

As Mona, the *monstre sacré* destined for the chop, Kim Criswell is in strong, extrovert form and does an excellent impersonation of Ethel Merman. She makes the most of the show's best number, *That Mister Man of Mine*. But Busby comes close to turning into a fan letter when the Broadway theatre is bulldozed, for reasons none too clear, and the whole show transfers to a battleship. In the good old days of Franklin D. Roosevelt, when Dolores Del Rio and Rudy Vallee ruled the waves, the US Navy was at hand to provide a venue for homeless musicals. It may be the Hudson River rather than the South Pacific, but it makes for a rousing chorus to bring up the curtain on Act II.

Dick, the composer-sailor, always ready with a song-sheet in his bell-bottoms, inspires the transfer. This would have been the Dick Powell role and Jason Gardner plays him with a good deal of toothy charm. The sentimental numbers with Joanne Farrell's Ruby have proper period flavour. If they do not manage to tap their way on and off ship with the aplomb of Gene Kelly and Vera-Ellen in *On the Town*, then who did, or does?



The US Navy to the rescue. *Dames at Sea* harks back to the days of Franklin D. Roosevelt when all the dancing girls loved a sailor and a battleship could be home to a show

Underworld song and dance

It might seem to be a stage partnership made on Par-nassus, a production of Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* choreographed by Mark Morris, much of whose finest work has been set to Baroque scores, and conducted by Christopher Hogwood, a leading exponent of playing classical music on old instruments. Thus at a stroke two of the piece's principal problems are solved: its relative dearth of dramatic incident (and, of course, its requirement for several ballets) and the colouristic delicacy of the score, which modern taste, paradoxically, almost requires to be performed on old instruments.

Morris's and Hogwood's new production, which recently completed an American tour at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, will be presented at this summer's Edinburgh Festival. It would be hard to imagine a more traditional staging of Gluck's noble, neoclassical vision of triumphant love than this one, from the Doric columns and fluttering

draperies of Adrienne Lobel's lovely set to the little paste wings on the shoulders of Amor; yet the production throughout was marked by bracing freshness and originality of vision.

Unlike Morris's memorable *Dido and Aeneas*, which was danced straight through, with the singers in the pit, Michael

Chance and Dana Hanchard acted out the title roles just as they must do in an ordinary production. The chorus, in evening dress, was placed on risers on either side of the

stage, while the dance company, in Martin Pakledin's exquisite reinterpretations of togas and peplos, alternated between infernal and sylvan revelries.

The choreographer's distinguishing marks were evident throughout almost any movement performed on the stage: the furies and ghosts in the underworld, cleverly lit so as to throw grotesque shadows on the undulating draperies, and the spontaneous camaraderie of the frolicking finale were particularly exciting.

Morris also handled the vocal soloists with becoming, straightforward refinement: the long third-act duet between the lovers was staged as a stately minuet. The action was never dull; I was especially enchanted by the playfulness of Amor (Christine Brando), who gamboled and

lolled about with the insouciance of a cherub by Correggio.

The Handel & Haydn Society played with more style than polish: despite some occasional blowiness in the brass and imperfect string intonation, the musicians propelled song and dance with graceful conviction. Chance was a bit muffled in his lower register at first, but he soon dominated the stage with a robust vocal performance. Hanchard has a beautiful voice with a dark timbre, intensified by a tight vibrato, which produces a sound remarkably similar to Chance's. When the two sang in unison, there was at moments an eerie sonic sameness — but that may not be altogether unsuitable for Gluck's victorious lovers.

JAMIE JAMES

Wild echoes flying

Vignoles et al
Assembly Rooms,
Bath

THE chances were that, by their fourth concert in the Assembly Rooms in five days, the Bath Festival's Artists in Residence would have worked out how to deal with the acoustic. But after the uncomfortable experience of the third of those concerts, there were no chances: the live broadcast on Radio 3 was a better bet. Either way, the programmes designed by the pianist Roger Vignoles to illuminate the festival theme of "migrations" were unmissable.

The acoustic difficulties at the Assembly Rooms had never before seemed so acute as they were when Vignoles presided over a concert of music inspired by the gypsy influence. When Louise Winter was singing Gypsy Songs by Brahms and Dvorak, the problems of integration were not so serious. In the instrumental duos, on the other hand — Ralph Kirshbaum playing Janáček's *Pohádka* and Dmitry Sitkovetsky playing Ravel's *Tzigane* — the problems were insuperable.

In the marching concert of music with a Jewish theme, considerations of balance were, with help from the BBC engineers, far less distracting. Indeed, one had time to wonder what was Jewish about Brahms's Piano Quintet in F minor and to reflect that however good the pianist — Barry Douglas on this occasion — "artists in residence" do not make a chamber ensemble adequate for such a work as this. However, there was a revelatory interpretation by Philip Dukes and Roger Vignoles of Bloch's Suite for Violin and Piano.

The occasion was notable, too, for the European debut of the American soprano Tiffany Jackson, whose voluptuous sound was imaginatively deployed in Milhaud and Ravel.

GERALD LARNER



Skirting the issue: the Mark Morris Dance Company in the Morris/Hogwood production of *Orfeo ed Euridice*

Small, but perfectly informed

Amadigi
St Clement Danes

This is the Opera Theatre Company of Dublin's third visit to the Covent Garden Festival with Handel, and once more the occasion for sold-out houses. They should become annual events — after all, Handel composed enough operas to last well into the next millennium.

The company's success is based as much as anything on Séamus Ó Riainn's musical

direction. His tempos seem perfectly judged, both in themselves and in relation to each other; he shapes the dramatic action cogently, even given some cuts (regrettable in so comparatively short a Handel opera, but forgivable); the vocal decorations he devises are showy but idiomatic — apart, on Wednesday, from one bizarre excursion into the world of *Lucia di Lammermoor*.

Richard Cork continues his guide to highlights of the current exhibition at the National Gallery

As he grew older, Degas painted less and less. Pastel became his favourite medium, but the oil paintings he did produce in old age are among his most powerful, none more than this extraordinary canvas.

Restricted in colour, so that the bath seems flattened against the wall beyond, it is nevertheless a sumptuous image.

The water in the tub appears to suffuse the room with warmth, and even the large towel has lost the cool, bright whiteness it possesses in other pictures from the same series.

Leaning against it, the bather seems strangely elongated as she rubs the side of her body. Degas wanted to accentuate the sense of a body unfolding as it relaxes after a bath.

Certainly the woman's flesh is painted in an unusually simple way. Compared with the pastels, where the bathers' bodies are often scored with harsh lines, this figure could hardly be more smooth.

But there is a sense of



"An extraordinary canvas": *After the bath: woman drying herself*, c. 1894-6. Philadelphia Museum of Art

ease in this picture as well as pleasure. The gap separating the woman from the bath seems to emphasise her isolation. Moreover, she tilts her head at an awkward angle. The bather looks very alone, and the defencelessness of her exposed, dramatically lit flank hints at a feeling of vulnerability.

• Degas: Beyond Impressionism until Aug 26 (tickets from First Call, 0171-420 0000)

• On Monday, Richard Cork continues his series with a discussion of *Woman at her toilette* (c. 1900-03), while on Tuesday he will review the major exhibition of work by the Swiss sculptor Alberto Giacometti at the Scottish Gallery of Modern Art, in Edinburgh.

years previously of *Rinaldo*, the first piece Handel wrote for London. There is a love-lorn sorceress, Melissa, who gets no change whatsoever from the fine upstanding hero of the title, but makes life hell for his true love, Oriana and exploits his best friend Dardano's passion for the lady as well.

The arias for the lovers are mostly out of the top drawer but, like Schiller, Handel loved bold, determined women who don't play by the rules, and lavished music of great variety on Melissa, from defiance with trumpets to bouncy, if temporary, 3/4 triumph and a suicide scene with accompanied recitative of extraordinary sensitivity. Maja Cullagh's big, warmly coloured soprano sounded just right for the role, and she showed a fearlessness of execution to match that of the character.

The counter-soprano Jonathan Peter Kenny was in good form as Amadigi, and once past some early problems with pitch Anne O'Byrne made a nice, true Oriana. Dardano gets just about the loveliest aria in the opera, a lament with bassoon and oboe obbligato of piercing beauty, well sung by the bronze-toned Budug Verona James.

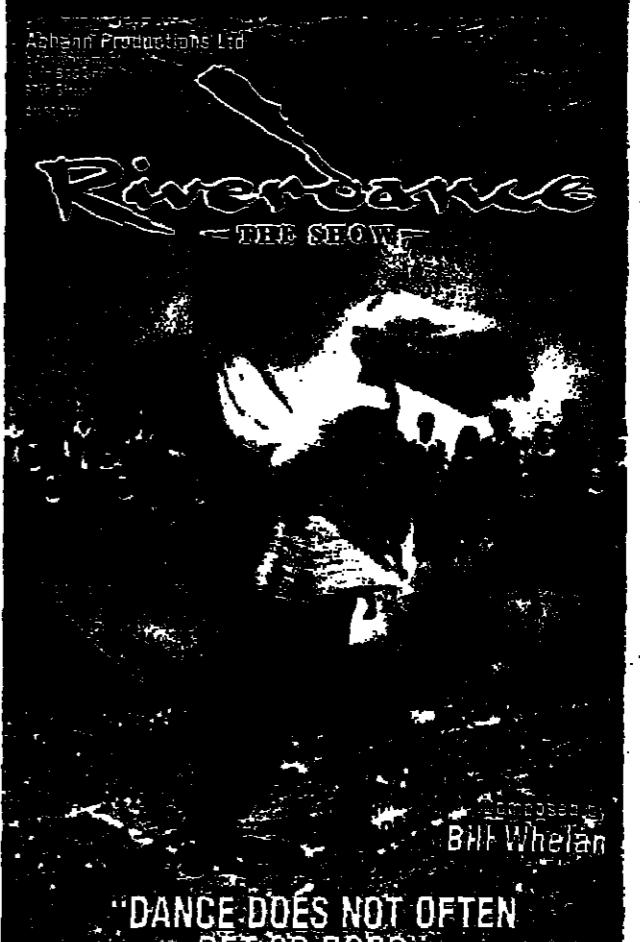
Of course there is humour in the work to temper the heroics, but some may find the director James Conway's approach too broad, and you need extremely experienced performers to carry off his near-Wildean ironic treatment of the action — only Cullagh came near it.

But the performance is bursting with life and those unable to squeeze into the repeats tonight and tomorrow should know that *Amadigi* visits the Buxton Festival in July.

RODNEY MILNES

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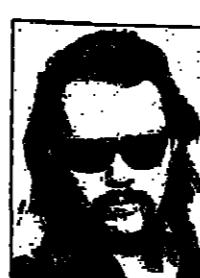
■ POP 1

Teenage woe...
the much-hyped
B's are the
wave of the
very young



■ POP 2

A small output
but perfectly
formed: Blue
Nile on the
long search for
Peace at Last



■ POP 3

Going a bit
soft? The latest
album from
Metallica shows
disturbing signs of
mellowness



■ POP 4

Garage-band thrills
with a Welsh
accent: 60ft
Dolls deliver a
predictable but
punchy debut disc



■ POP 5

... while the
Aloof live up
to their name
with a stark
and mysterious
second album

DES JENSON

Not enough riff with the smooth

NEW ALBUMS: If this Metallica were lumberjacks, they'd be the ones who like to press wild flowers

METALLICA*Load*

(Vertigo/Mercury 532 618) As heavy metal overlords of the 1980s, Metallica perpetrated crimes against the hearing of a generation with a wanton genius that was impervious to outside critique. Like the Alien in the first of the Sigourney Weaver movies, the band was a lifeform that functioned with malevolent perfection, however much those assigned to bury it might have wished otherwise.

But it is now five years since the group's crowning glory, the 14-million selling, megan-riffing *Metallica* (the so-called Black Album), and they have softened perceptibly. The jerking, bluesy riff of *Ain't My Batch*, which opens their new album, sounds like Robert Palmer doing one of his T. Rex impressions: the sweeping chorus of *Ronnie* would not be out of place on a Bon Jovi album; and there is even an acoustic guitar ballad, called *Mama Said*, with subtle touches of pedal steel.

It is not all like that, of course. The rolling, tortuous-driven riff of *Thorn Within* and the aggressively grinding boogie rhythm of *2 X 4* hit the rockface like Thor's hammer. And singer James Hetfield vents his spleen with a familiar roar on *Wasting My Hate*, a portrait of himself as Mr Angry that verges on caricature.

Sometimes it works, as on the single *Until It Sleeps*, a sensational pop-rock song by any standard. But too often the hard thinking gets in the way of the hard rocking, and when they attempt to paste a presumably ironic lyric over a pseudo-funk beat on *Poor Twisted*

Me,**they are in danger****of losing the plot altogether.****THE ALOOF***Sinking*

(East West 0630-14584)

ONE OF many acts now chipping away at the interface between dance music and experimental rock, the Aloof is a four-piece from London that numbers among its ranks DJ Jagz Koonar and keyboard player Gary Burns, both formerly of Sabres Of Paradise, and DJ/producer Dean Thatcher of Red Snapper.

Sinking, their second album, is a stark and mysterious cocktail of gliding synthesizer sounds, languid dub effects and furiously shuffling percussion loops, with the ultra-compressed jazz vocals of Ricky Barrow periodically bobbing up like the umbrellas on top.

Although the album is essentially a tour of alternative realities, influenced by drowsy trip hop, there is a surprisingly forceful quality to numbers such as *Abuse*, with its sinister, helicopter-blade rhythm, and the industrial-strength beats of *One Night Stand*.

60FT DOLLS*The Big 3*

(Indolent DOLLS004)

THE latest in a recent string of Welsh exports, 60ft Dolls from Newport have successfully located the original garage-band thrill and deliver a punchy, if predictable, rock'n'roll broadside on their debut album.

A man who wears his influences on his sleeve, singer Richard Parfitt has one of those classic breathless British voices — somewhere between Ian Hunter and Joe Strummer — which

SINGLE**REBECKA TÖRNQVIST***Good Thing*

(EMI 8 65242)

THE first single released in Britain by Swedish singer and songwriter Rebecka Törnqvist, *Good Thing* is a jaunty tune, nudged along by a sunny slide guitar. If anything, it recalls the early work of Tania Tikaram.

However, her impressive treatments of Alex Wilder's *I'll Wait* and the Burke/Van Heusen standard *Here's that Rainy Day* underline her serious jazz credentials.

A sophisticated talent with a light, populist touch, Törnqvist could turn out to be a very good thing indeed.

DAVID SINCLAIR

TOP TEN RECORDS

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 Older | George Michael (Virgin) |
| 2 Jagged Little Pill | Alanis Morissette (Maverick) |
| 3 Everything Must Go | Manic Street Preachers (Epic) |
| 4 (What's the Story) Morning Glory? | Oasis (Creation) |
| 5 1977 | Ash (Infectious) |
| 6 The Score | Fugees (Columbia) |
| 7 Greatest Hits | Take That (RCA) |
| 8 Falling Into You | Celine Dion (Epic) |
| 9 Moseley Shoals | Ocean Colour Scene (MCA) |
| 10 Hits | Mike & the Mechanics (Virgin) |
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Take your time, think a lot

Three albums in a dozen years is hardly prolific, but that's the way things are with the ever-lovely Blue Nile. Alan Jackson reports

One question wearis Paul Buchanan more than any other. Inevitably it is that which he is most often asked, but only by those not already entranced by the music of his band, the Blue Nile: why does it take so long to come up with each new album? "I think people get it the wrong way round," he says of the popular expectation that artists should be not only gifted, but also effortlessly, extravagantly prolific. "What I would want to ask is why don't more people wait until they can put out good records?"

This is not the self-aggrandising response it might seem: like his partners Robert Bell and Paul Joseph Moore, Buchanan is too well mannered ever to think of blowing his own trumpet. But he has a point. And those who love the group are grateful for this commitment to quality, not quantity.

Having met as students at their home-town university, the three Glaswegians released their first LP, *Walk Across the Rooftops*, to critical acclaim in 1984. But long before 1989, when its equally lauded successor, *Hats*, appeared, a cartoon-like image had been bestowed upon them by the wider music industry — that of reclusive perfectionists, toiling obsessively. Allowing nearly seven years to elapse

before presenting a follow-up, *Peace at Last*, has only served to confirm this caricature, of course. "I know, I know," Buchanan says. "But take latter-period Bob Dylan or Stevie Wonder or Paul McCartney ... wouldn't you say there's sometimes a strong case for putting out less material, not more?"

The growing number of famous names to have sought him out in the interim might choose to disagree. Peers as diverse as Robbie Robertson, Michael McDonald and Julian Lennon have benefited recently from his collaborative influence on their own songwriting, while Annie Lennox, Rickie Lee Jones, Rod Stewart and even Isaac Hayes covered material from *Hats*.

All this has been more than enough to guarantee him cult status as a writer, if not as a performer. Meanwhile, a relationship since ended, with the actress Rosanna Arquette has been bestowed upon them by the wider music industry — that of reclusive perfectionists, toiling obsessively. Allowing nearly seven years to elapse

photographed at an awards ceremony one day, then being ignored by the waitress in some greasy spoon the next. It's all just a chance to absorb detail.

On stepping out of the reflected spotlight, it took an itinerant progress through rehearsal spaces or studios in Copenhagen, Venice, Paris, Dublin and finally Los Angeles before Buchanan and Co could call *Peace at Last* complete.

"Really good things come along only when they're ready to — you can't hurry them up," he says. "And why settle for making something that has no worth? There are enough plastic key-rings out there in the universe — generations from now, they'll still be struggling to get rid of all the free gifts we give out at service stations. You have to aim for something more than just their musical equivalent."

The album has been greeted with great excitement by Warner Bros executives. "Of course it's intense, moving and deeply beautiful," the thinking seems to run. "After all, it's a Blue Nile record." This time, though, it

is subtly different, accessible enough to sell a great many copies. "All in all, almost the perfect set-up for a disappointment," the singer-songwriter says.

Lyrically, the ten tracks return again and again to what Buchanan judges the important things in life: family, friends, youth, hope, some sex, a little religion, your favourite music. Among such references, only the religious ones could be said to represent a potential threat to anyone familiar with his songwriting to date. They surface most strongly on the album's centrepiece, *Family Life*, and beg a question: Buchanan was raised a Catholic, but does he still consider himself one?

The answer is prefaced by a mock-furtive look, and a message whispered into my tape machine: "Don't listen, Mum." "I wish I was still a real Catholic," he continues, more loudly. "Instead I'm a sort-of-one, spectacularly so in times of crisis, and the mythology retains a strong pull on me." Buchanan smiles self-consciously, and says he feels uncomfortable at expressing his opinions on such fundamental issues. "Is there a God? How would I know? It would be really good if there was. For me, I can't quite stop believing. Not yet."

• *Peace at Last* is released on June 10 by Warner Bros

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YEAR after year, night after night, Ralph Sharon follows Tony Bennett from one concert stage to another. The highest compliment that can be paid to the British-born pianist is that, in the course of the 17 tracks on his trio session, the absence of Bennett's vocals never remotely seems a burden.

His selection includes more than a parade of greatest hits. *That Old Black Magic* receives a brisk airing, but Sharon passes over, say, *Blues in the Night* in favour of *Right as the Rain*. While he takes some justifiable harmonic liberties with the material, his prime asset is surely his unerring rhythmic inventiveness, propelled by the exquisite brushwork of Clayton Cameron.

Sharon seldom feels the urge to push a treatment beyond three or four minutes. This minimalist approach may lack the intellectual pretensions of Keith Jarrett's Standards Trio — the biggest name in this particular field — but its zest and plain-speaking make for a far more stimulating ride.

DAVID NEWTON
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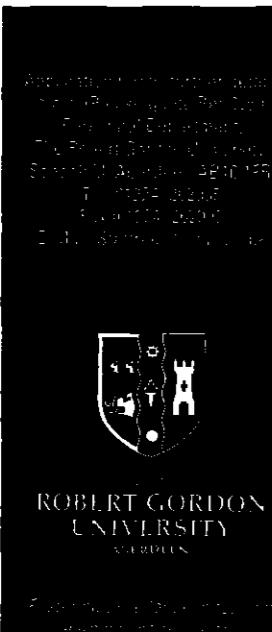
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EDUCATION

The battle for literacy

Michael Barber
on what Britain
must do to get
children reading
and reap the
economic reward

Evidence published earlier this week shows that Britain is slipping further down the competitiveness league table. At nineteenth, we are in grave danger of being relegated from the economic premier league. Chile and Taiwan are two of the countries ahead of us.

Raising educational standards is essential if our downward slide is not to continue. Educational progress on its own will not be enough, but without it our economic problems will certainly worsen.

The Government's reforms of the past decade have been controversial but few now doubt that at their core were some good ideas. A national curriculum, nationally assessed, has helped to establish higher expectations and a common language in which to debate standards. Delegating educational funding to schools has given them greater freedom to operate effectively, and regular school inspections have been beneficial.

The evidence suggests that educational standards have risen substantially in the past decade, certainly in GCSE and A-level examinations, and in participation rates post-16 and post-18. So it is tempting to conclude that if the reforms were simply allowed to bed down, all would be well and Britain would catch up with its competitors.

Tempting but disastrous. Although standards have risen, they remain far below those of many other countries. Worse still, the bedrocks of future educational success — the standard of literacy at the end of primary schooling — is not firmly in place.

Although aspects of the recent Ofsted report on reading were contested, no one disputes its conclusion that "four



Testing time: the early acquisition of reading skills is absolutely vital for educational — and national — progress

out of ten pupils in year six achieved reading ages which were two or more years below their chronological age. Many of these 11-year-old pupils achieved a reading age of about eight."

While the three deprived boroughs in the survey are not typical of the whole country, its results reveal very serious literacy problems in Britain's metropolitan areas — and underperformance in literacy at 11 has dire consequences. Secondary schools are often not equipped to ameliorate or rectify it if, and they are, it is expensive. Poor literacy is also associated with poor standards of behaviour, especially among boys. Worse still, we know from research that pupils who leave primary school as low achievers are also likely to be low achievers at 16.

Any realistic hope of raising educational standards substantially in the long term depends upon an urgent, concerted effort to boost reading standards in primary schools.

The Government has taken some positive steps on reading during the past five years. It

funded the Reading Recovery Programme for three years, only to withdraw funding as evidence of its success emerged. This year it announced the establishment of national literacy centres, of which much is rightly expected. Overall, though, the area has suffered from too many disconnected initiatives and an absence of strategic thinking.

For example, although one chief aim of the national curriculum was to raise standards in the "three Rs", the evidence suggests that because it was so overladen in its first few years, it actually reduced the amount of time devoted to

and their leaders point to underfunding or class sizes as the cause of the problem. Yet the public would surely welcome an admission from the profession that in this overwhelmingly important aspect of education, teachers have not got it right and need to think again.

The media portray this dispute but rarely seem to reflect on the role they might play — through children's television programming, for example — in addressing the problem. Meanwhile, parents sit bewildered on the sidelines of an unedifying row.

The Government's announcement that inspectors would have greater powers to test children and inspect teacher training may or may not help. Either way, it cannot conceivably be an adequate response to the problem.

There are, in my view, two preconditions for any effective solution. First, every party involved — government, teachers, parents and the media — needs to be less quick to blame others and more willing to take responsibility

for the part it can play in improving reading standards.

Secondly, our approach to the problem needs to be consistent, steady and strategic over a minimum of five years. A random sequence of one-off initiatives in response to "shock-horror" headlines will be

always last to understand whatever was happening at school.

On the other hand, if government has the courage to set an ambitious target — that every 11-year-old should read at their chronological reading age or better by early in the next century — and enlists the support of others in a consistent, single-minded pursuit of that goal, a real leap in reading standards is achievable. This demands, of course, a change of climate and a new attitude of critical self-reflection. The literacy task force which David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, announced this week intends to make this

possible.

• The author is Professor of Education at the Institute of Education, London University, and will chair the literacy task force announced by David Blunkett.

A headmaster is to swap a comprehensive for St Helena, Peter Foster reports

In Napoleon's footsteps

A headmaster has decided to trade the rigours of a busy comprehensive to tend to the educational needs of a far-flung outpost of the British Empire. John Price,

56, will go into self-imposed exile on the island of St Helena in the South Atlantic when he becomes the island's chief education officer later this month. For the next two years

he will oversee the development of the island's ten schools with its 1,400 pupils as well as having responsibility for the public libraries.

Mr Price, headmaster at St John's School, Marlborough,

for the past 14 years said he had not been looking for a job when he saw the position advertised in *The Times Educational Supplement*. "I felt I probably had five more years in education and thought this job would make a definite change and be interesting and challenging so I applied," he said.

The island, more than 1,100 miles off the coast of Africa, makes contact with the outside world mainly through a Royal Mail ship which arrives every six to eight weeks.

Mr Price and Angela, his wife, will fly with the RAF to Ascension, an island some 700 miles northwest of St Helena, before spending two and a half days sailing to their final destination.

An amateur biologist, Mr Price says he will have little problem keeping himself occupied on a lump of volcanic rock ten miles long and six miles wide. "I have a special interest in the flora and fauna of isolated islands and shall be following some eminent scientists. Charles Darwin stopped at the island while on the so-called Beagle voyage out of which came *On the Origin of Species*.

St Helena has an exciting range of endemic plant species which should keep me occupied. The rest of the time I shall spend walking on the coast and enjoying the view."

One of the best views on the island will be from the Prices' new house, a converted officers' mess which looks straight out to sea from cliffs 700ft above Jamestown, the island's capital. "I look forward to watching the RMS

Helena sailing away as I muse on my last contact with the outside world until the mail arrives in six weeks' time," Mr Price added.

He will commute to his office in the centre of Jamestown down the 699 steps of Jacob's Ladder. The staircase, which rises at an angle of 39 degrees, is cut into the mountainside. If Mr Price cannot face the walk back up, he can take his Peugeot which he has had shipped over specially.

Paul Ashton

Peter Foster

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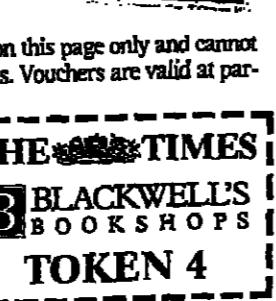
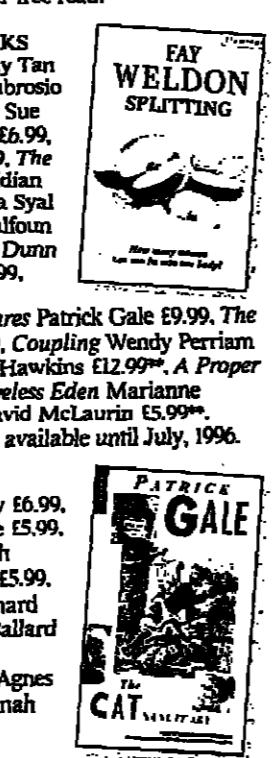
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Moving: John Price and wife Angela



On the island, there are the comforts and conveniences of life in Britain but was confident he could live without McDonald's and the English weather. "I shall miss the chance to go to the opera or cinema and going into a good bookshop and browsing through the latest publications. On St Helena I shall be reading reviews of books that won't reach the island for weeks to come."

But unlike the exiled Napoleon, who died on St Helena in 1821, Mr Price will be able to return to his homeland when his contract expires.

Jenny Knight on a girl's fight with her local authority

When should the deaf be heard?

Laure McGarry passed the stiff entrance exams to win a place at the Mary Hare Grammar School for the deaf, but if Hampshire County Council has its way she will attend the local comprehensive.

Janet and Tom McGarry, her parents, are awaiting the results of an appeal to a special needs tribunal challenging the council's decision to send the 11-year-old to Cove Comprehensive in her home town of Farnborough, instead of the specialist boarding school in Newbury, Berkshire.

The issue is not just about whether Laure — who has a severe hearing loss — will get most A levels, but whether she would be better off in a deaf community rather than trying to fit into mainstream society.

Mrs McGarry, who is also deaf and was educated at a mainstream school, said: "We want Laure to be happy and not struggle to be a hearing person, which is something she can never be."

Laure is the first deaf child to attend the school since it opened in 1970.

On the other hand, if government has the courage to set an ambitious target — that every 11-year-old should read at their chronological reading age or better by early in the next century — and enlists the support of others in a consistent, single-minded pursuit of that goal, a real leap in reading standards is achievable. This demands, of course, a change of climate and a new attitude of critical self-reflection. The literacy task force which David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, announced this week intends to make this



Appeal: Janet McGarry and her daughter Laurie

bearing impairments. While teasing and bullying by peers did take place in the deaf school, it did not occur in relation to the children's deafness. In contrast many of the children at PHUs described bullying by hearing peers, centring on the child's deafness."

A study in America showed that more than half of a group of high school students had difficulty making hearing friends and only a tiny minority had any contact with hearing peers outside school.

Mr McGarry said: "We had a fair hearing at the tribunal and will probably have to accept the decision. They asked Laurie questions and could see that she couldn't understand what was going on without the help of an interpreter.

If Laurie goes to the comprehensive I will try to arrange a bi-weekly review with the school so we are aware of any problems. Laurie goes on holiday with other deaf children and comes back on a high. I am convinced her confidence would be much greater if she went to the Mary Hare."

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From Hounslow Heath to hub of the world



Left: Sir John Egan, chairman of BAA (second right) and Mike Roberts, managing director of Heathrow, show the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh a model of the proposed Terminal 5. Right: the first "terminal" at Heathrow 50 years ago



On June 6, 1944, as 130,000 Allied troops were storming the Normandy beaches, a few dozen navvies began digging on Hounslow Heath to lay the foundations for two strips of concrete which are now Britain's main gateway to the world.

Hounslow Heath — a flat layer of gravel deposited 25 million years ago — is 14 miles to the west of London. It had been used as a Royal Flying Corps training aerodrome during the First World War but had had to take a back seat to Croydon, which was developed as the capital's main airport in the 1920s.

Fairley Aviation continued to use what it called the Great West Aerodrome to test its aircraft, enabling some far-sighted aviators and politicians serving on Lord Beaverbrook's War Cabinet Committee on Civil Air Transport to suggest its development as a main terminal airport. Using wartime emergency powers, the Air Ministry bought 2,800 acres of land on Hounslow Heath and drew up plans to develop it in a Star of David pattern to allow aircraft to take off in any direction.

After the war it was transferred to civilian control. On May 28, 1946, a BOAC Avro-Lancaster took off with six passengers — each with an armchair, a window and a table — bound for Sydney, Australia. Three days later, London Airport-Heathrow was formally opened.

To cope with the demand from passengers from airlines such as Pan Am and American Overseas Airways, which now began using the airport on a regular

Harvey Elliott on Heathrow's fiftieth anniversary

On a tent village was erected, furnished with armchairs, a bar, a Cable and Wireless Desk and Elsan toilets. Fire buckets were used to catch the rain and duckboards protected passengers from the thick oozing mud.

Within its first year it had handled 60,000 passengers, 2,400 tons of cargo and more than 8,000 flights. Compare this with the 54 million passengers who will pass through Heathrow on 1,100 flights a day heading for 213 destinations in 85 countries this year, and the one million tons of cargo a year worth more than £40 billion which the airport handles.

Today Heathrow is the size of Hereford, with the jobs of 54,000 people depending on the airport directly and a further 26,000 in the surrounding area. The wages paid to these employees alone are worth more than £3 billion a year.

Although some American airports are bigger than Heathrow, it handles more international passengers than any other in the world. Because it has so many flights to so many places it has developed into the world's leading connecting "hub", with passengers from Africa flying in to change planes for the Far East and travellers arriving from America catching flights to the Continent.

The basic facts and figures surrounding Heathrow are mind-boggling. There are 35 flights a day to Paris, 22 to New York. On June 30 last year the airport handled 194,500 passengers. Last year it handled 57 million items of baggage.

BAA is also spending £1 million every day improving the airport still further. But there are real concerns about the future. It is now impossible for any new airlines to start operating from Heathrow, and even existing carriers do not have the take-off and landing slots available to expand further.

Giant aircraft capable of carrying up to 800 people are about to be produced and there is a rapid growth in the use of larger aircraft. The increased numbers of passengers have to go somewhere, hence the proposal to build a fifth terminal.

The public inquiry has lasted for more than a year, and is certain to last at least another. Opponents of the scheme are determined to make it difficult, if not impossible, to open the terminal — even if it is finally approved — in 2003 as is now planned.

And by then Heathrow will be bursting at the seams. Already big airlines are looking at airports on the European mainland which they could develop into a "hub" for their long-haul services, relegating Heathrow to no more than a regional feeder airport.

Without the planned expansion, say those who own and use Heathrow, it will not go on growing very far into its second half-century.

BAA's battle with Alders duty-free shops at Heathrow and other airports is a clear sign of how important retailing is for the airport operator. Retail revenue for BAA at its seven UK airports is its largest source of finance, bringing in £514 million in 1994-95. This represents 44 per cent of its earnings.

Alders, which rents its retail shops from BAA, would add significantly to this if BAA takes control of the stores.

BAA says its earnings from retailing enable it to invest more than £1 million a day across the group to develop and improve its services. More importantly, retail revenue makes it possible for Heathrow to keep down its landing charges.

Passengers might be forgiven for wondering if Heathrow's expansion to become one of the largest shopping malls in the South East detracts from its prime function: to be a place from which to fly. Some airline chiefs, for example, have voiced concern that travellers can cause delays because they are too engrossed in shopping to take notice of departure announcements.

BAA's research shows that shopping is high on the list of passengers' priorities and can be a factor in choosing which airport to fly from. Barry Gibson, group retail director for BAA, says: "We are not a monopoly. Passengers can buy duty-free goods, for example, on the plane on the way out or coming back and they also have the option of shopping in their departure airport at the other end as well."

Shopping provides the funds for expansion, reports David Churchill

for BAA, says: "We are not a monopoly. Passengers can buy duty-free goods, for example, on the plane on the way out or coming back and they also have the option of shopping in their departure airport at the other end as well."

British Airways' plans to increase its retail revenue by offering in-flight catalogues for goods to be ordered and dispensed later.

Underpinning Heathrow's retail strategy since the early 1990s has been an element of competition, bringing in a wider variety of competing retailers in each of the four terminals. There are now more than 30 retail operations at the airport, ranging from fashion retailers such as Austin Reed and Aquascutum, designer boutiques like Gucci and Ferragamo, and gift shops including Chinacraft and the Disney store.

Given Heathrow's passenger profile — with 55 per cent of its passengers in the AB socio-economic category and a further third in the C1 group — it is not surprising that most stores are upmarket specialist retailers. The Mappin & Webb shop in Terminal 4, for example, is reportedly the biggest selling outlet for Rolex watches in the UK. A bottle of Scotch whisky, moreover, is sold every seven seconds the airport is open. Johnny Walker Red Label is the top brand, while Chanel No 5 is the most popular fragrance.

For the future, Terminal 5, if it gets the go-ahead, will provide the first opportunity for BAA to design a terminal with shopping at its heart. Although no shops have been earmarked for the terminal — BAA is anxious not to take its go-ahead for granted — it will inevitably include a WH Smith. After all, Smith's was the first shop opened at Heathrow 50 years ago, and the need for something to read on a journey still holds today.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY MAY 31 1996

Arthur Reed on the milestones in aviation

Slow bombers to supersonic jets

The pioneering passengers who used Heathrow's tented air terminal in 1946 had the choice of 18 air routes, and were flown in slow and noisy aircraft, many of them hasty conversions from wartime bombers and transports.

By the close of that first year, the handful of airlines operating from the new airport had made more than 8,000 flights, with each airliner carrying an average of 6.5 passengers. Today, the contrast could hardly be more remarkable. It is a graphic reflection of the galloping pace of civil aviation.

Heathrow now has 1,100 flights each day, by 93 airlines to 213 destinations in 85 countries. While the average number on board each airliner is 130, Boeing 747 jumbo jets routinely take off with as many as 420 passengers.

After Heathrow's progress from its take-off in 1946, the next significant step came in May 1952, when the British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC), a forerunner of British Airways, flew the world's first scheduled service with a jet-powered airliner, the de Havilland Comet, to Johannesburg.

By the late 1950s jets were

taking over from the propeller-powered aircraft. The jet-powered Boeing 707s and Douglas DC8s, flying at 450mph, more than halved what had been a bumpy 17-hour marathon, with refuelling stops at Shannon and Gander on the way.

Heathrow saw its first scheduled 747 jumbo service in January 1970, when Pan American used one of the new wide-body jets on the New York run, and in September that same year the first supersonic Concorde landed — an unscheduled diversion from Farnborough. A British Airways Concorde opened the first scheduled supersonic service out of the airport in January 1976 with a flight to Bahrain, which touched 1,350mph when cruising at 55,000ft down the Adriatic and across the eastern Mediterranean.

The liberalisation of civil aviation by the European Union has resulted in a rash of start-up airlines, and many of these are knocking on the Heathrow door for admission. On busy days in the summer season, Heathrow already handles as many as 90 take-offs and landings in an hour.

If Heathrow is not to seize up in the future, aircraft will

have to carry more passengers for each take-off and touch-down. This trend can already be seen with the recent arrival of a new generation of twin-engine, high-capacity wide-bodied airliners, the Airbus A330 and the Boeing 777. Both these aerospace manufacturers are at an advanced stage of planning for a family of airliners to carry 600, 800 and even 1,000 passengers at a time.

But such enormous airliners will also pose problems for airports, especially those such as Heathrow which were originally designed in the piston-engine era.

The Airports Council International, which is based in Geneva, estimates that it will cost more than \$100 million per site to modify runways, taxiways and aircraft aprons, and passenger terminals to accommodate the super-jumbos of the future.

It is a tall order and Mr Roberts admits that in the early days of his job — he became MD in October 1991 — he was sometimes close to despair at the level of what he saw as negative publicity about the airport. He believes the tide has changed. "The balance of media comment has turned positive," he says.

Mr Roberts is no stranger



Hot seat: Mike Roberts, managing director of Heathrow

Keep the noise down, please

Heathrow makes every effort to take care of the neighbourhood

It is perhaps not surprising that Heathrow's "mission statement" includes a policy of being "a good neighbour, recognising the needs of the community and the environment". The airport has grown over the past half-century to become one of the dominant features of the environment in the region, affecting everything from air quality and noise to local transport and waste management.

Noise pollution, however,



The airport fines aircraft that break noise limits

remains the key area of concern for many who live and work in the area. The airport has a nine-point action plan to counter noise pollution, including increased fines for aircraft that break the noise-control procedures. In the few years the plan has been running, £200,000 paid in fines has gone to finance local community projects.

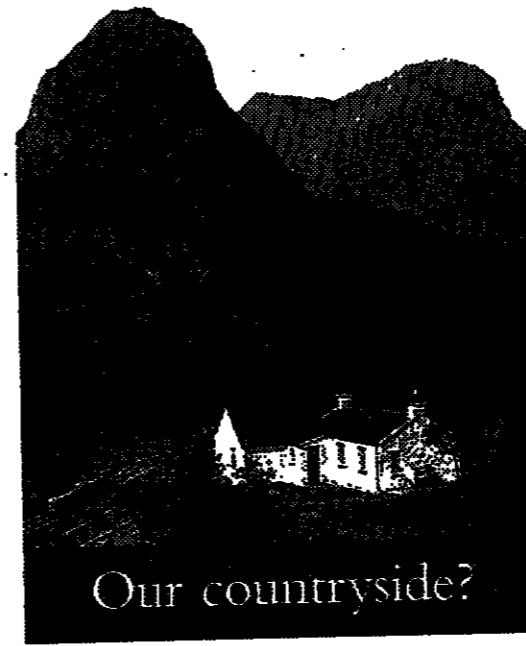
Other measures include noise insulation for more than 7,000 local homes and a repair scheme for vortex damage caused by circulating currents of turbulent air which can dislodge roof tiles.

DAVID CHURCHILL

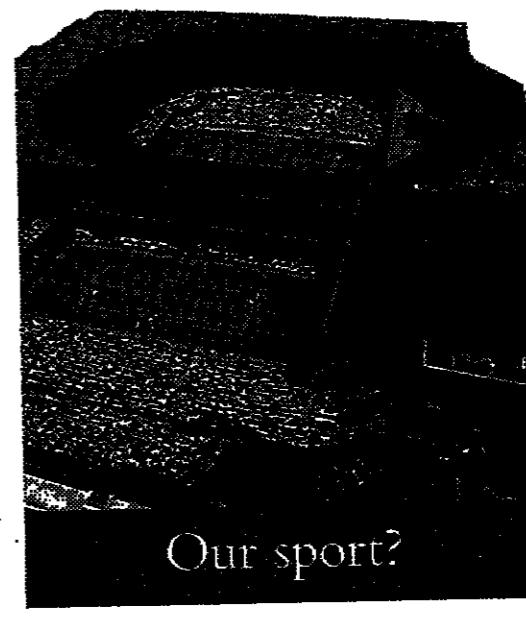
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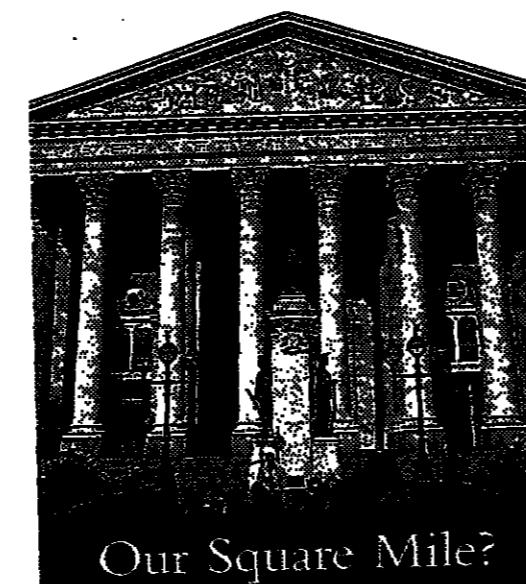
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HEATHROW 37

Planning ahead

Why the locals appreciate Mike Roberts's efforts

The man responsible for running the world's busiest international airport is Mike Roberts.

The 51-year-old managing director of Heathrow is in the hot seat at one of the most critical junctures in the airport's history. He faces challenges from continental rivals, such as Schiphol, Paris and Frankfurt, continuing pressure from local community groups worried about the airport's impact on the environment, and the uncertainty over whether the Terminal 5 development will go ahead.

It is a tall order and Mr Roberts admits that in the early days of his job — he became MD in October 1991 — he was sometimes close to despair at the level of what he saw as negative publicity about the airport. He believes the tide has changed. "The balance of media comment has turned positive," he says.

Mr Roberts is no stranger to the controversies that such a high-profile airport can create. One of his first jobs, when joining the British Airports Authority (now BAA) in 1967 as the company's first graduate trainee, was to measure the impact that the new jumbo jets would have on

problems that faced Mr Roberts was that with the local community, where communication had deteriorated to almost zero. Improving relations was a priority, especially given the impending decision to go for a fifth terminal at the airport.

He initiated a series of measures aimed at wooing local communities, including investing in local projects, holding regular open meetings and acting on complaints, building a £4 million visitors centre so that local people could come and learn about the airport, and establishing a noise "hotline". The result, according to airport surveys, has been a marked improvement in attitudes towards the airport.

Mr Roberts believes that one of the key elements of his job is to plan ahead. "The hallmark of our company has been to take a very long perspective," he says. "There are not many businesses where you need to plan your infrastructure on a 15 to 20-year timescale. If we hadn't planned ahead in the past, then Heathrow would not be the success it is today."

DAVID CHURCHILL

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BAA

Shaping up for the 21st Century

Rob Hughes, football correspondent, on the sport's big power game

Fifa poised to show red card to Havelange

The global future of football, on levels of politics and billion-dollar finances beyond anything known in Great Britain, is about to explode in Zurich today. I have just seen Joao Havelange, the president of Fifa and the father of one of its slogans, "Fifa, For The Good Of The Game." As he glided away in one of the limousines that he so proudly says represents an international body once worth nothing, but under his leadership with \$80 million in reserve, I heard one of his senior executive committee members utter: "Fifa, for the God of the game."

We shall see, today and tomorrow, whether Havelange, the Latin who has presided over Fifa for 22 years since the ousting of Sir Stanley Rous, is still the god of his game.

When Fifa House is cleared this morning of all but the committed men, the rule of Havelange is to be challenged in three ways, each of which is tantamount to a vote of no confidence.

First on the agenda is the rebellion among a majority of the 21-man executive committee about the manner in which marketing and television rights for the World Cups of 2002 and 2006 have been negotiated, apparently by Havelange and Sepp Blatter, his general secretary, in contradiction to pledges made to the committee. There is a movement to have these deals scrapped, and the whole process of negotiation done again, this time with "transparency and accountability".

Then it gets really interesting. No less than 14 of the 21-man executive have put their names to the desire for Fifa to break its own rule and to ask Japan and South Korea, after so expensive and so wounding a bidding campaign, to co-host the World Cup in 2002. Havelange, blatantly canvassing on behalf of Japan alone since 1993, has simply used an 80-year-old ear to pretend that it is deaf to the word "democracy" and to the will of his membership.

Thirdly, if co-hosting is blocked, Lennart Johansson, the president of Uefa, the governing body of the game in Europe, and the first challenger that Havelange has met to his authority, will demand



Political football: Johansson and Havelange will do battle for control of the world game in a series of meetings over the next two days in Zurich

an apparently innocent but deliberately loaded stipulation. He wants the vote between the two Asian superpowers on Saturday morning to be handled by an independent party — the Fifa auditors, he suggests — rather than to remain in the pockets of Havelange and Blatter during the two hours between the votes being cast and the declaration.

How ever you dress up these three points of contention, they amount to a lack of faith in the leadership. And, I believe, the only reason why members are not being entirely honest in their challenge to the administration, is because the statutes of Fifa deny such a movement within the committee. Havelange thinks that it is protected from the floor; the membership, who have acquiesced to his every whim for more than two decades, insist that their time has come. The language between senior vice-presidents of Fifa this week

POLITICAL FOOTBALL: VOTES MAY BE DIVIDED

THERE are 21 voting members of Fifa's executive committee. A clear majority, including all eight Europeans, the three Africans, and the member for Trinidadi request co-hosting of the 2002 World Cup between Japan and South Korea. If this proposal by 14 of the 21 members is blocked, the subsequent vote later this month in 2002 would be tighter but, Korea could substantially gain from executive members voting for it to embarrass the president, Joao Havelange — in effect, a political vote in protest at the president's abuse of office. Unless the execu-

utive committee meeting today alters intentions, the members are expected to vote thus:

PRO KOREA
AFRICA: Issa Hayeou (Cameroun); Ali Alzaabi (Tunisia); Ram Rutherford (Malta).

ASA: Mong-Joon Chung (Korea Republic); Henry Fok (Hong Kong); Eddy Goh (Singapore); David Low (Bermuda); David Wilf (Scotland); Antonio Mazzoni (Italy); Michel d'Hooghe (Belgium); Gerhard Meyer-Vorfelder (Germany); Per Rein Omdal (Norway)

PRO JAPAN
ASA: Abdullah Al-Dabab (Saudi Arabia).

SOUTH AMERICA: Joao Havelange (Brazil); Guillermo Canudo (Mexico); Julio Grondona (Argentina); Carlos Corio (Uruguay); CONCACAF: Isaac Sessa (USA); EUROPE: Poul Hyldgaard (Denmark).

FLOATING VOTERS
EUROPE: Vaclavslav Koloskov (Russia); SOUTH AMERICAS: Ricardo Teixeira (Brazil); CONCACAF: Jack Warner (Trinidad and Tobago).

Unless there are broken promises, Korea would win by a straight majority of at least one vote.

has included the phrase "it is time to cut the throat" of the presidency.

Whether they do it, or fall entirely into line, we are here to witness. Today is contentious enough, but it is behind closed doors: tomorrow, these elected members, from backgrounds of privilege and from countries spread across the world, where football crosses every

known barrier of race, culture, or creed, must either show their opposition, or accept that the deals that will be signed on their behalf might well carry Havelange's pervasive influence beyond his grave.

We are talking here of something central to the future of the game. Football, growing with the expansion of television and with the seemingly

bottomless pit of sponsorship money, is in a position to establish its move towards the new millennium on unexplored ground. Asia as a World Cup venue is a magnificent prospect, unlike many of the committee, I have visited both South Korea and Japan.

It takes no time to be convinced that each would carry the game into a new

technological era, that each would deliver their promises. So, the choice would be between rewarding Korea's passion throughout this century for the game, or to entice the youth of Japan into a way of life that their fathers have missed. The co-hosting option grows in appeal.

Johansson thinks so, too.

Appalled by the almost im-

moral spending of \$100 mil-

lion between Japan and Korea in the bidding process alone,

he believes that any human

being who cared for both the

sport and the Far East would

call off the enmity and use

football as a catalyst to peace.

Of course, he has another agen-

der. Johansson knows

that a World Cup, expanded

for commercial reasons to 32

teams, is almost too big for a

single nation to mount. He

obtained the signatures of all

eight European Fifa executive

members last month on a

letter appealing to Havelange

to explore co-hosting.

On the president's promise,

to rules are there to change.

He does not contemplate that,

if a leader has lost credibility,

then he, too, can be changed.

The members say that they

now have the stomach for a

fight. Some acknowledge that

Havelange has lost all sense of

neutrality, that his adminis-

tration has gone beyond all

reason.

So, tomorrow, if it comes to

a vote between Japan and

Korea, some Fifa members

will keep the media and

the bidding delegations in.

To give you some idea of

what is at stake, two recent

Prime Ministers will sit in a

waiting room rather like that

of a dentist.

Kiichi Miyazawa, of Japan,

and Lee Hong-koo, of South

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call off the enmity and use

football as a catalyst to peace.

Smith, who will coach Eng-

land Students during their

World Cup tournament in

South Africa in July, is to

resign his teaching post at

Oakham School to take up a

full-time job with Leicester.

"It is a very exciting time, with

a new full-time role and the

chance to work closely with

one of the world's top coaches," Smith said.

Dwyer, ousted after eight

years as Australia national

coach last autumn, coached

Racing in Paris last season.

IN BRIEF

Dwyer to oversee coaching at Leicester

BOB DWYER, who coached Australia to victory in the 1991 rugby union World Cup, is to join Leicester as the new director of coaching. He will work with Ian Smith, the present coach, in what is expected to be a relatively short-term appointment.

"I am a sportsman," Havelange declared last week. "In sport, there is always a winner and a loser. The Fifa rules do not allow co-hosting of the World Cup. As long as I am Fifa president, that will not change."

He does not hear the voices in his own committee saying

'He doesn't contemplate that a leader can be changed'

that rules are there to change. He does not contemplate that, if a leader has lost credibility, then he, too, can be changed.

The members say that they now have the stomach for a fight. Some acknowledge that Havelange has lost all sense of neutrality, that his administration has gone beyond all reason.

So, tomorrow, if it comes to a vote between Japan and Korea, some Fifa members will keep the media and the bidding delegations in.

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Kiichi Miyazawa, of Japan, and Lee Hong-koo, of South Korea, two very eloquent gentlemen, will lead the presentations. The vote, if it goes to ballot, will be decided by

the youth of Japan into a way of life that their fathers have missed. The co-hosting option grows in appeal.

Fontanelli first

Cycling: Fabiano Fontanelli won a sprint finish to take the 121-mile twelfth stage of the Giro d'Italia from Aulla to Loano yesterday. Davide Rebellin, another Italian, retained the pink jersey of overall leader for the sixth consecutive day.

Court of Appeal

In practice the prosecuting authority would find it frequently impossible to obtain such evidence. Teachers would be placed in an invidious position even if they knew of the child's disposition to naughtiness or mischief.

In simple straightforward cases an interview by a psychiatrist would introduce an undesirable and unnecessary element into the prosecution process.

Five principles relevant to the present appeals emerged from the principal speech of Lord Lowry (at p3SC-39A):

(i) The presumption of dolus incapax could only be rebutted by clear positive evidence that the child knew that his act was seriously wrong and of acts amounting to the offence itself was not enough to rebut the presumption.

The children ranged in age from 11 years 3 days to 13 years and 10 months at the time of the offence.

Mr Thomas Bailey for L: Mr Nicholas Paul for T: Mr Malcolm Trousdale for W: Miss Jane Waugh for CH: Mr Alec Burns for CH: Mr Stephen Ashurst for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE OTTON said that the appeals all primarily concerned whether there was sufficient evidence as to the capacity of the appellants to rebut the presumption of dolus incapax following the decision of the House of Lords in *C (a Minor) v Director of Public Prosecutions* (1996) 1 AC 195.

The House of Lords had held that the presumption that the child was of the age of 10 and 14 was dolus incapax was still part of the common law. Such a presumption could be rebutted only by clear positive evidence that the child knew that his act was seriously wrong and of acts amounting to the offence itself was not enough to rebut the presumption.

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The House of Lords had held that the presumption that the child was of the age of 10 and 14 was dolus incapax.

The principle set out in *Rivers v Cutting* (1982) 1 WLR 1146 enabled the police to engage contractors to exercise their powers in relation to removal, storage, disposal or collection of charges provided the decision as to whether or not to exercise the power remained with the police.

Thus, provided the decision was not the same as the decision of the police, it was not a delegation of the statutory duty to a contractor to implement that decision.

His Lordship did not find that the fact that the constable was wholly unsatisfied that the fact that the constable from entering into the contract in the present case. His Lordship was equally satisfied that the authority was empowered to enter into the contract by reason of section 11(1).

His Lordship did not find that the constable submitted that in order to rebut the presumption the prosecution was required to call evidence specifically relating to the child's perception of the seriousness of what he did. That was, evidence independent of the facts of the events and from an independent source such as a teacher or psychiatrist or one who knew the suspect well.

Such evidence should have included an interview with the suspect and questions should have been put to him specifically to elicit responses which would have indicated his state of mind at the time of the offence and his appreciation of the seriousness of what he had done.

His Lordship was unable to accept that interpretation of the

Reeve to the fore as bitter rivals resume hostilities

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

NORTHAMPTON (first day of four; Warwickshire won toss): Warwickshire, with eight first-innings wickets standing, are 280 runs behind Northamptonshire.

THERE is enmity between these sides that even Roses rivalry can no longer equal, and this was as combustible a day's cricket as the championship will produce all summer. The hostility was tangible, never more so than during an unpleasant exchange in which the umpires had to intervene as David Capel brandished his bat at Dermot Reeve and Keith Piper after protesting about their distracting chat.

It was an exacting day for Trevor Jesty and Tony Clarkson, two inexperienced umpires. Before play, they reported to the Test and County Cricket Board their concerns about a damp patch on the pitch, evidently the product of a hole in the plastic

covering. It proved insignificant, but, later, Clarkson warned Shaun Pollock for exceeding his quota of bouncers during a fiery post-lunch spell that also brought him two wickets.

Goodwill on the field was in short supply throughout, a legacy of regular provocative contests between these neighbours during the past few years, climaxing in the momentous game at Edgbaston last June, which Northamptonshire won by seven runs. They have a good chance of winning this one, too, after making a competitive total on a pitch promising plenty to the quicker bowlers.

Warren, Capel and Curran batted with character for Northamptonshire and Pollock bowled fast and well. The most effective bowling came from Reeve, his insidious medium-pace claiming five wickets for 37, which made it more of a pity that he should

become embroiled in a public altercation.

Its prompt appeared to be

remarks made by Piper, the wicketkeeper, who had twice postured theatrically after rejected appeals. Capel strode down the pitch to complain to umpire Jesty, whereupon Reeve, from slip, and Piper, advanced towards him. As the umpires sought to calm tempers, Capel pointed his bat at both players.

Capel refused to elaborate

on the incident, but Jesty later explained: "There was a lot of hot air and we called them together and told them to be quiet and get on with the game. There was a bit of chat between the captain [Reeve] and the batsman and the keeper tried to join in."

It was Reeve who found himself on the receiving end of three "bearmen" from Curly Ambrose in the corresponding fixture six years ago, since when relations between the sides have remained frosty. Ambrose, reprimanded by his club on that occasion, may now have a decisive influence on the rematch, for he found trampoline bounce last evening to dismiss Wasim Khan first ball, and Dominic Ostler.

Wasim is playing in place of Nick Knight, whose cracked finger was still painful him yesterday. Knight hopes to return in the Sunday League.

Alleyne stands firm to frustrate Lancashire

By SIMON WILDE

OLD TRAFFORD (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss; Gloucestershire have scored 157 for five wickets against Lancashire)

LANCASHIRE held high hopes of taking this game by the scruff of the neck when they had Gloucestershire 35 for four on the pitch used earlier in the week for the one-day international, but they spent the rest of the day frustratingly tackling a fine rearguard action.

Mark Alleyne was the biggest thorn in their side, hitting three hours for an unbeaten 49, his highest championship score of the season, and Lancashire will rue his two escapes. Crawley responded brilliantly at short leg to a full-blooded stroke only to juggle futilely with the ball; the other was a straightforward miss in the slips by Elwes of Chapple.

Chapple was the pick of the Lancashire bowlers and returned the best figures of

Heavy overnight rain prevented play before 2pm.

Symonds scored 38 and has not reached 50 against a county attack in 12 innings since making 67 in his first outing of the season. Yesterday his concentration failed him in the first over after tea, when he carved loosely at a ball outside off stump and was caught at the wicket.

Lancashire then came up against the obduracy of Russell, who held Warwickshire and Keedy at a bay with aplomb, despite signs of early form for the spin bowlers. He and Alleyne have so far put on 59.

Gloucestershire's earlier batsmen, perhaps with memories of their cup failures at the ground on Tuesday fresh in their minds, had made themselves much easier prey. Heavy overnight rain prevented play before 2pm.



Capel, the Northamptonshire batsman, has words with Piper. Photograph: Graham Morris

Hussain makes his point

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

NOT even Nasser Hussain's blazing ambition to force his way back into the England side, or the sponsor's lure of £7,500 to any county who can beat the touring teams, could prevent another Trelly Challenge match from finishing in a disappointing draw at Chelmsford yesterday.

Hussain knew that he needed something spectacular before the side for the first Test is picked this weekend, and he did his best to provide it with 55 off 109 balls.

Once he was out, bowled round his legs sweeping at Hirwani, Essex called off their attempt to score 275 to win in a minimum of 51 overs.

As far as the Indians were concerned, the most meaningful cricket had come in the morning when Jadeja, who will open the batting in place of Sidhu, may have been Darren Gavaskar's second hundred in successive innings.

Sussex's cross-border incursion into Kent saw them repelled with a bloody nose, until they redressed the balance in the day's closing overs at Tunbridge Wells through the bowling of Law and Drakes.

Sussex were bowled out by 4pm for 142, due as much to their own shortcomings as to Kent's lively and accurate seam attack in conditions which required resolute, forthright batting.

Not necessarily as forthcoming, perhaps, as that of Matthew Fleming, who put bat to ball to such effect that he scored 45 from 45 balls to give Kent a rip-roaring start.

Ward and Hooper were no slouches, either. Hooper hit Salisbury for a straight six which went clean out of the ground and lost the ball. Ward merely knocked its replacement out of shape and at 188 for two Kent were sitting pretty. The score at the

close, 200 for six, with Hooper (72) and Ward (51) both out, was rather less impressive.

Sherwin Campbell, Durham's West Indies opener, greeted the belated arrival of summer with his first century for the county as they reached 333 for five at Trent Bridge. Of greater consequence for the long-term health of Durham cricket may have been Darren Gavaskar's second hundred in successive innings.

Graeme Hick's 87 first-class century, made against Hampshire at New Road, was also one of his slowest. It took him 5½ hours to find a recovery from six for two.

Matthew Maynard, the Glamorgan captain, has been fined and issued with a severe reprimand by the county's cricket committee after his comments on the umpiring of the Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final defeat by Warwickshire.

Derby's seam attack picked apart by Thorpe

By IVO TENNANT

THE OVAL (first day of four; Derbyshire won toss): Surrey have scored 382 for seven wickets against Derbyshire

FOR Graham Thorpe, batting yesterday was a matter of picking out a boundary board and hitting it. In making an unbeaten 158 off 211 balls, an innings that included 25 fours, he really did play that well. Put in by Dean Jones, a decision that seemed to lack forethought, Surrey made a total that also included Alec Stewart's first championship half-century of the season and an innings of rich promise by Adam Hollioake.

Jones fielded five fast or fastish bowlers, entrusting himself to provide such spin as would be needed. The ball hardly deviated all day. The pitch was firm, the weather clammy. There would have been a few bowlers not enamoured with their captain by the close.

Thorpe's driving was crisp, selective and highly effective. He was helped by Corky retiring with a muscle spasm in the afternoon and some loose off spin, if it can be so-called, from Jones. After Stewart had gone and Brown was caught at the second attempt by Krikken standing up to Wells, Hollioake partnered Thorpe as pleasingly as Butcher had earlier. His innings of 72 bespoke considerable talent.

Thorpe's three first-class centuries have come in seven innings this season. It is not enough to bring him, in this era of Benson and Hedges matches and four-day cricket, a thousand runs before the end of May, but it is an achievement. The impression that he gave yesterday was that he knew enough about Cork to tell when the short ball was coming — and he was

sure on it.

Cork did soon have Darren Bicknell caught at gully, but there was no containing Stew-

art. His form this season contrasts sharply with that of Thorpe in that his highest first-class score had been no more than 33, but now there was an assurance about his cover driving that brought him eight fours. There was also an unnecessary dismissal: he flat-batted a short ball from Wells straight to cover point.

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Turf Club stewards leave jockey free to ride in Oaks

Carson wins helmet ban appeal

By OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT

WILLIE CARSON was successful yesterday in his appeal to the Irish Turf Club against the five-day ban he received for wearing an unapproved helmet at the Curragh last Saturday.

The decision overturned the suspension imposed by the local stewards, leaving Carson free to resume riding next Tuesday when an existing ban, handed out by Lingfield stewards over his riding of Kamari, expires.

Carson was suspended by the officials after winning the Irish 1,000 Guineas on Matiya. After originally indi-

RICHARD EVANS

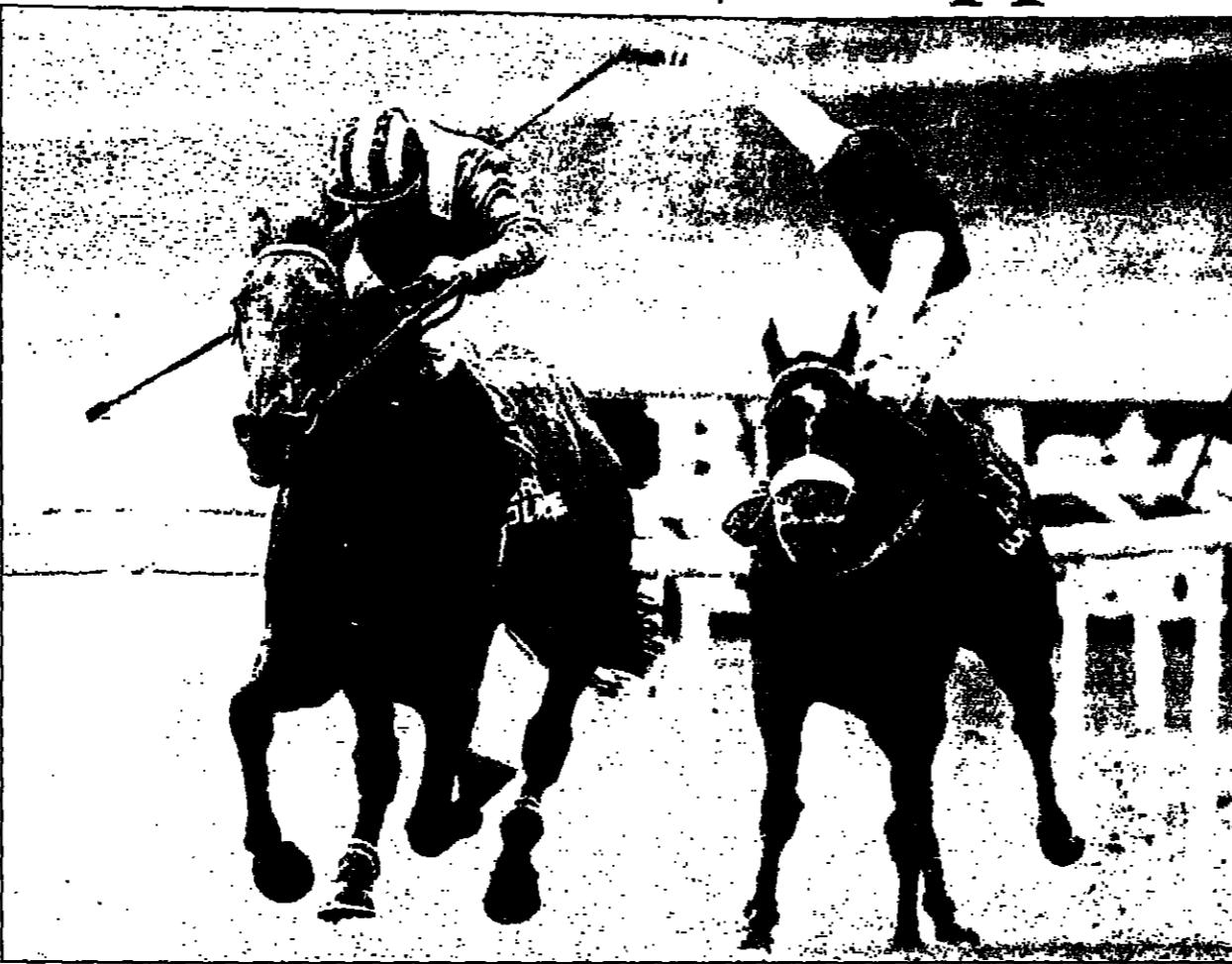
Nap: ANCIENT QUEST (4.00 Ayr)
Next best: Suatich (3.40 Wolverhampton)

cating no appeal would be lodged, Carson changed his mind and appealed before the three-man committee, comprising Turf Club senior steward Michael Osborne, Professor Michael MacCormac and Frank O'Reilly.

Carson was flanked by his solicitor, Andrew Coonan, and Angus Gold, racing manager to Sheikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum, Matiya's owner, when he arrived for the hearing.

Also present was the Turf Club medical officer, Dr Walter Halley, who reported Carson for wearing the unapproved helmet. He spotted the old-fashioned headgear when the jockey placed it on the weighing room table as he weighed in.

Carson's appeal was lodged on the basis that the local stewards reached an incorrect decision based on the facts



Carson coaxes Matiya (left) to victory in the Irish 1,000 Guineas at the Curragh last Saturday

given to them and they then imposed too severe a penalty.

In their official announcement of the verdict, the stewards said they were satisfied that Carson had ridden in a skullcap with a lesser specification than that required under the rules.

But they noted that "the technical specifications for all approved skullcaps were inaccurately defined in the notice to all trainers and riders regarding skullcaps in the *Irish Racing Calendar* of March 7, 1996."

The decision to overturn the ban leaves Carson free to ride Butt Salsabil in next Friday's Vodafone Oaks.

As he left the hearing, Carson said: "The stewards have been very kind to me. I wore the wrong helmet by mistake, it was not deliberate that the wrong one was packed in my bag."

Carson again gave a broad hint that retirement may be on the horizon, saying: "I am very excited. I can now look forward to the Oaks which might be my last one."

Meanwhile, High Baroque, trained by Peter Chapman-Hyam and the Godolphin-owned colt, Don Micheletto, were yesterday supplemented at a cost of £2,938 for the group one Prix du Jockey-Club, run at Chantilly on Sunday.

One of the favourites, Loup Solitaire, who has a back injury, and Halcon have been withdrawn, leaving a possible field of 15. Chapple-Hyam could be three-handed as he is responsible for the other two British entries, Astor Place and Polaris Flight.

THE Michael Stoute-trained Whitewater Affair is to be put in the Oaks at today's £15,000 supplementary stage. However, Henry Cecil was delaying his decision on whether to supplement Magnificent Style. He said: "A great deal depends on what the ground is likely to be."

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BATH

THUNDERER
6.35 Filon. 7.05 Summer Queen. 7.35 Rockcheck. 8.05 Millerian Refurb. 8.35 Don Bosco. 9.05 Ben Bowden. Our Newmarket Correspondent: 8.35 Don Bosco.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

6.35 GRITTLTON RATING RELATED MAIDEN FILIES STAKES (3-Y-O; £2,555; 1m 2f 46yd) (5 runners)

1 (9) 508 AUTHORITY BOUTIQUE 14 weeks 8-11... M Whales 91
2 (1) 556 EWAR BOLD 2 Cr Eclipse 8-11... P Eddie 91
3 (7) 549 SHALATEER 5 M Cresswell 8-11... P McEvoy 91
4 (3) 521 CEDAR 20 5 H Cresswell 8-11... P Eddie 91
5 (4) 502 SUPER TARGETER 2 M Cresswell 8-11... P Eddie 91
S (5) 505 LAVERNE DELLA 241 M Fotheringham-Godley 8-11... W J O'Connor 91

8-11 Firs. 5-2 Second. 6-1 CD Super Targeter. 8-1 Another Game. 8-1 Lancer.

Lancer. 8-1 My Way. 8-10 others.

GATTERICK

THUNDERER
2.20 Robec Girl. 2.50 North Arder. 3.20 Malteama. 3.50 SEA-DEER (nap). 4.20 Limerick Princess. 4.50 Dalia.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.20 LIMERICK PRINCESS

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW BEST SIS

2.20 STAPLETON MAIDEN AUCTION FILIES STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,763; 5f) (9 runners)

1 (1) 508 AUTHORITY BOUTIQUE 14 weeks 8-11... M Whales 91
2 (1) 556 EWAR BOLD 2 Cr Eclipse 8-11... P Eddie 91
3 (7) 549 SHALATEER 5 M Cresswell 8-11... P McEvoy 91
4 (3) 521 CEDAR 20 5 H Cresswell 8-11... P Eddie 91
5 (4) 502 SUPER TARGETER 2 M Cresswell 8-11... P Eddie 91
S (5) 505 LAVERNE DELLA 241 M Fotheringham-Godley 8-11... W J O'Connor 91

8-11 Firs. 5-2 Second. 6-1 CD Super Targeter. 8-1 Another Game. 8-1 Lancer.

Lancer. 8-1 My Way. 8-10 others.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER
2.10 Desert Invader. 2.40 Sandmoor Denim. 3.10 Red Test. 3.40 Suatich. 4.10 Greenwich Again. 4.40 Newtonton Blits.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

2.10 CLOWN AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (23.125; 1m 100yd) (11 runners)

1 (1) 5144 CASHEEN ADD 3 (G,F,G) 1 farr 4-11... Mrs Diane Jones 7
2 (1) 5152 NORTHERN FAME 20 (G,F,G) 1 farr 4-11... M Whales 91
3 (3) 5092 DESERT INVADER 18 (G,F,G,S) D Chapman 4-9
4 (1) 5153 ROBEC GIRL 2.50 North Arder 4-11... P Eddie 91
5 (1) 5154 SEA-DEER 2 Cr Eclipse 8-11... P McEvoy 91
6 (1) 5155 NORTH ARDER 3.20 Malteama 4-11... P Eddie 91
7 (1) 5156 GREENWICH AGAIN 3.40 Suatich 4-11... P Eddie 91
8 (1) 5157 NEWTONTON BLITS 4.40 Newtonton Blits 4-11... P Eddie 91
9 (1) 5158 DESERT TESTER 22 (G,F,G) 1 farr 4-11... P Eddie 91
10 (1) 5159 ANCIENT QUEST 15 (G,F,G) 1 farr 4-11... P Eddie 91
11 (1) 5160 DONCASTER 22 4-11... P Eddie 91
12 (1) 5161 ROBINSON 22 (G,F,G) 1 farr 4-11... P Eddie 91
13 (1) 5162 CLATTERICK 22 4-11... P Eddie 91
14 (1) 5163 SUATICH 22 4-11... P Eddie 91
15 (1) 5164 GREENWICH AGAIN 3.40 Suatich 4-11... P Eddie 91
16 (1) 5165 GRIFFITH 22 4-11... P Eddie 91
17 (1) 5166 DESERT TESTER 22 4-11... P Eddie 91
18 (1) 5167 ROBEC GIRL 2.50 North Arder 4-11... P Eddie 91
19 (1) 5168 GREENWICH AGAIN 3.40 Suatich 4-11... P Eddie 91

8-11 Firs. 5-2 Second. 6-1 CD Super Targeter. 8-1 Another Game. 8-1 Lancer.

Lancer. 8-1 My Way. 8-10 others.

3.10 REGIONAL RAILWAYS MAIDEN STAKES

(2-Y-O; £3,240; 6f (5))

1 (1) 5159 BLAZING CASTLE 35 W & H Turner 8-1
2 (1) 5160 BURLINGTON HOUSE 23 (G,F,G) T Davies 5-10
3 (6) 5161 FLATLINE 21 M Preston 8-1
4 (1) 5162 PRESTON 8-1
5 (1) 5163 REVENGE 8-1
6 (1) 5164 SATURNATION 8-1
7 (1) 5165 SKELETON 20 R Hollinshead 5-8
8 (1) 5166 SWAVE 7 F Evans 8-3
9 (1) 5167 PRESTON 8-1
10 (1) 5168 BLAZING CASTLE 35 W & H Turner 8-1
11 (1) 5169 BURLINGTON HOUSE 23 (G,F,G) T Davies 5-10
12 (1) 5170 BLAZING CASTLE 35 W & H Turner 8-1
13 (1) 5171 PRESTON 8-1
14 (1) 5172 SWAVE 7 F Evans 8-3
15 (1) 5173 PRESTON 8-1
16 (1) 5174 SWAVE 7 F Evans 8-3
17 (1) 5175 PRESTON 8-1
18 (1) 5176 SWAVE 7 F Evans 8-3
19 (1) 5177 PRESTON 8-1
20 (1) 5178 PRESTON 8-1

7-8 Prestons. 4-1 Blazing Castle. 5-1 Ridge. 5-1 Blazing Castle. 5-1 Star. 5-1 Ridge.

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Legacy of Cockerell is flourishing in an unlikely sporting arena

Very few frills attached to racing skirts

Christopher Cockerell started it in the early 1950s: experimented with coffee tins and a vacuum cleaner and, by 1959, he had perfected the exercise, built the first hovercraft. (At around that time I was researching the effect of a dustpan and brush or Lipton tea bags and got nowhere).

The first hover, the SRN1, had its limitations, like a top speed of ten miles per hour and the inability to negotiate waves of more than 18 inches or land obstacles above a foot. To combat these shortcomings, the flexible skirt was developed, whereafter hover technology made rapid progress.

In 1962 the Vickers VA3 provided a link between Rhyd and Merseyside; a year later SRN2 operated across the Severn and the year after that

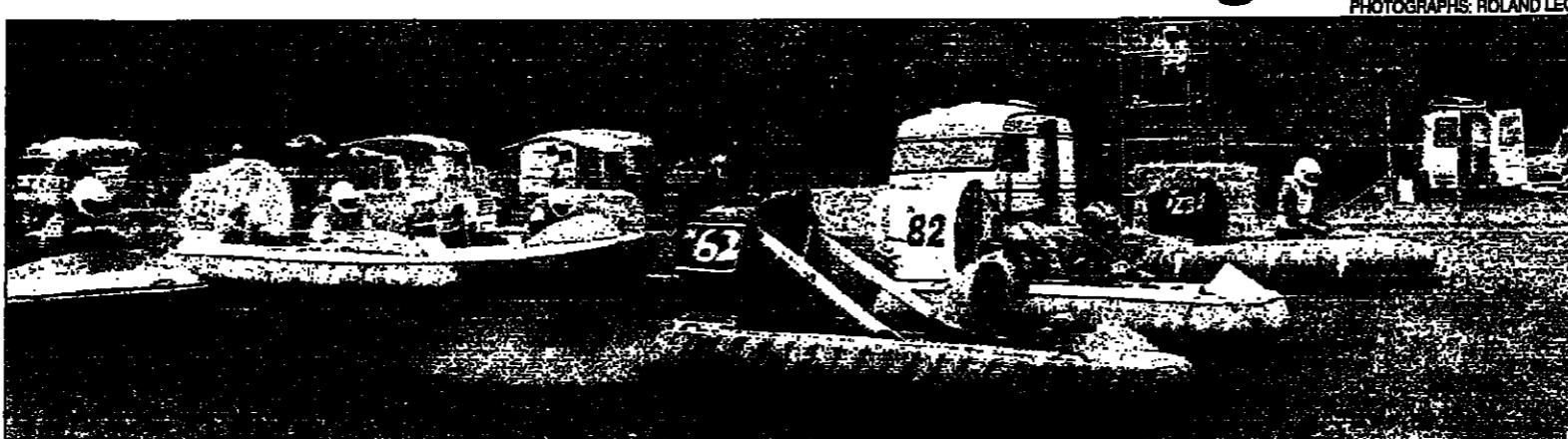


FREUD ON FRIDAY

NS carried passengers from Portsmouth to the Isle of Wight. Hovercraft became larger, faster, more efficient, were used all over the world and, in 1969, Cockerell was knighted for his achievement — just like senior civil servants and unsuccessful MPs.

In common with other "interesting" inventions, the hover principle attracted pioneer amateur builders who used the technology on a variety of vessels, some with a single engine a percentage of which provided the down-draft which causes lift, while the remaining power propelled the boat; others with a forward fan for lift and a rear motor for drive. The pilot sits in the front steering by means of a joystick or bicycle handlebar and the judicious transference of weight.

Today the Hover Club of Great Britain Ltd flourishes: *Light Hovercraft*, priced £2, is its monthly magazine and tells all in the "season", which runs from spring to autumn; there



Competitors roar away at the start of a hover race at Stanford Hall, in Warwickshire, top, before returning to dry land after a spell over water

are events and competitions in a dozen locations: mostly gracious houses, leisure parks and water gardens.

This may be the last remaining truly amateur sport: the prizes are modest silverware; the fuel used is four star or unleaded; the craft are classified by engine size: Formula 1 capacity, over 500cc; Formula 2, 250 to 500cc; Formula 3, under 250, the specification also for Formula junior.

The drivers are friends, help each other, share campsites where they live and sleep and barbecue and drink homemade beer and wine and spend the rest of the time

tuning engines, arguing about the relative merits of integrated and separate systems, working on the flexible skirt which retains the cushion of air beneath the craft.

The hulls are constructed of plywood, glass fibre or aluminium; the smaller the craft, the more vital it is to be as light as possible. There are no stars, no tantums, no scrutineers or drug testers nor groupies; just collective jollity and dedication and a goodly number of supportive wives and children, as well as a full complement of knowledgeable, safety-conscious officials.

I watched a national race meeting at Stanford Hall in Warwickshire. The weather was dismal, the crowd minuscule, enthusiasm high. The course is about one mile, the terrain considered to be a good mix of land and water with yellow markers to show the route. The start is grand prix-like with traffic lights and a pit lane for latecomers; the vessels

scout along the flatlands, skid into the lake, race along to a wooded paddock, pass between two trees and round on the far side of the water into the last sharp turn called Bedstead Corner.

"How did you come into the sport?"

"I saw the advertisement sent off for the book, then for the kit and built my own craft from plans before setting up in business designing hovers."

"Ploughing" is when your nose goes into the water, causing the craft to stop rapidly and the driver to swim.

There is a novice race in which the larger craft beat the smaller... a Formula 1 can do upwards of 70 knots, twice as fast as Formula 3; the race is ten minutes plus one lap.

Keith Smallwood, who is a teacher at Bradford, brings pupils who go home and build their own hovercraft. Smallwood is reputed to be the best barbecue on the circuit. He drives his boat into fourth place.

I meet Piers Coleman-Cooke, a 31-year-old Devonian, third in Formula 1 in the United Kingdom, second in the European competition last year.

"How did you come into the sport?"

"I saw the advertisement sent off for the book, then for the kit and built my own craft from plans before setting up in business designing hovers."

He has shelves full of trophies and would rather not talk about how much it costs, but a Formula 1 will set you back all of £6,000 and there is the car and the trailer and the petrol to get to the venues and about a gallon of fuel per race. Drivers do not have mechanics, they use friends.

A junior race is on. The two leading craft fight circuit after circuit, lapping the field, with the girl cornering better, the boy driving faster in the water but unable to hit the land at the correct angle for a turn and

get away. Hell-bent on victory, the craft are side by side in the final lap: both lose control, spin, regain control and the girl's craft lifts because she is over-revving. The boy wins.

In the absence of champagne to squirt over others on the podium, he is interviewed.

"How did it feel?"

"Yeah, great."

"Will you go on winning?"

"Yeah."

"What did you think of the race?"

"Yeah, great."

This is what comes of watching Mansell and Hill on television.

Paul Hibberd is a young man with a future. I am told, Ex-Bradfield, he studies aerodynamics engineering at Bath University and may end up having more silver trophies on his sideboard than anyone, which is about it in the way of reward for excellence in this sport. He could become as famous as Paul McCullum, our present *numéro uno*.

Robert runs into form at right time

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

MICHEL ROBERT, of France, underlined his form for the Enza New Zealand Nations' Cup today — the main event of the four-day Hickstead showjumping meeting — when he and Airborne Montecillo won the Enza New Zealand Trophy by nearly nine seconds.

Erik Holstein, of Ireland, the winner of the young riders'

championship in the same arena four years ago, was second, on Ballasey Kalosha. Geoff Glazzard, one of the few British riders who appeared to be trying, rather than using the competition as a schooling round for the bigger events to come, took third place, on Hello Oscar.

Airborne, a son of Abdullah, the 1984 Olympic silver medal-winner, won the same event last year when ridden by Luis

Ximenez, of Mexico. Two months after the win, the horse was sent to Robert's yard near Lyons. Robert, who had lost Miss San Patricio, his world and European silver medal-winning horse, to Eddie Macken, of Ireland, formed an instant partnership with the ten-year-old stallion and, in 25 competitions since August, they have only twice finished outside the top six.

Despite these successes, the

Olympic Games in Atlanta are not a realistic prospect. "He is not ready yet in his mind," Robert said. Vondene, on which he won the La Baule Grand Prix two weeks ago, and Deginia, the horse that he rides in the Nations' Cup today, are Robert's two Olympic contenders.

Di Lampard and Abbervail Dream, who had a slow clear round to finish eighth yesterday, have a chance to confirm their Olympic credentials today after being selected to join Geoff Billington, Michael Whitaker and John Whitaker in the Great Britain team for the Nations' Cup.

Ronnie Massarella, the

team manager, said that it had been a difficult decision to choose between Lampard and William Funnell, on Comex — a member of the winning team last year — for the fourth place. "They both jumped well," Massarella said. "In the end, it came down to the fact that Di had a clear round and William had a fence down." Also in the opening class, Billington had a reassuring clear round on It's Otto, while Michael Whitaker, who goes first today, had four faults on Midnight Madness. John Whitaker and Welham, who had a double clear round last year, confirmed their form with third place in the later competition, the International Stakes.

There was further cheer for the selectors yesterday when Two Step, Michael Whitaker's top horse, competing in his first competition since sustaining a hairline fracture of the withers in Bordeaux in February, jumped "out of his skin" in a small class in an outer ring. Massarella and Whitaker are confident that the 13-year-old gelding will be fit in time for Atlanta.

RESULTS: Nations' Cup meeting: Enza New Zealand Trophy: 1. Airborne Montecillo (M) Robert, Fr 0 mts. Imm 20 48cc; 2. Ballasey Kalosha (E) Holsten, 1st 0, 2nd 1, 3rd 1, 4th 1, 5th 1, 6th 1, 7th 1, 8th 1, 9th 1, 10th 1, 11th 1, 12th 1, 13th 1, 14th 1, 15th 1, 16th 1, 17th 1, 18th 1, 19th 1, 20th 1, 21st 1, 22nd 1, 23rd 1, 24th 1, 25th 1, 26th 1, 27th 1, 28th 1, 29th 1, 30th 1, 31st 1, 32nd 1, 33rd 1, 34th 1, 35th 1, 36th 1, 37th 1, 38th 1, 39th 1, 40th 1, 41st 1, 42nd 1, 43rd 1, 44th 1, 45th 1, 46th 1, 47th 1, 48th 1, 49th 1, 50th 1, 51st 1, 52nd 1, 53rd 1, 54th 1, 55th 1, 56th 1, 57th 1, 58th 1, 59th 1, 60th 1, 61st 1, 62nd 1, 63rd 1, 64th 1, 65th 1, 66th 1, 67th 1, 68th 1, 69th 1, 70th 1, 71st 1, 72nd 1, 73rd 1, 74th 1, 75th 1, 76th 1, 77th 1, 78th 1, 79th 1, 80th 1, 81st 1, 82nd 1, 83rd 1, 84th 1, 85th 1, 86th 1, 87th 1, 88th 1, 89th 1, 90th 1, 91st 1, 92nd 1, 93rd 1, 94th 1, 95th 1, 96th 1, 97th 1, 98th 1, 99th 1, 100th 1, 101st 1, 102nd 1, 103rd 1, 104th 1, 105th 1, 106th 1, 107th 1, 108th 1, 109th 1, 110th 1, 111th 1, 112th 1, 113th 1, 114th 1, 115th 1, 116th 1, 117th 1, 118th 1, 119th 1, 120th 1, 121st 1, 122nd 1, 123rd 1, 124th 1, 125th 1, 126th 1, 127th 1, 128th 1, 129th 1, 130th 1, 131st 1, 132nd 1, 133rd 1, 134th 1, 135th 1, 136th 1, 137th 1, 138th 1, 139th 1, 140th 1, 141st 1, 142nd 1, 143rd 1, 144th 1, 145th 1, 146th 1, 147th 1, 148th 1, 149th 1, 150th 1, 151st 1, 152nd 1, 153rd 1, 154th 1, 155th 1, 156th 1, 157th 1, 158th 1, 159th 1, 160th 1, 161st 1, 162nd 1, 163rd 1, 164th 1, 165th 1, 166th 1, 167th 1, 168th 1, 169th 1, 170th 1, 171st 1, 172nd 1, 173rd 1, 174th 1, 175th 1, 176th 1, 177th 1, 178th 1, 179th 1, 180th 1, 181st 1, 182nd 1, 183rd 1, 184th 1, 185th 1, 186th 1, 187th 1, 188th 1, 189th 1, 190th 1, 191st 1, 192nd 1, 193rd 1, 194th 1, 195th 1, 196th 1, 197th 1, 198th 1, 199th 1, 200th 1, 201st 1, 202nd 1, 203rd 1, 204th 1, 205th 1, 206th 1, 207th 1, 208th 1, 209th 1, 210th 1, 211st 1, 212nd 1, 213rd 1, 214th 1, 215th 1, 216th 1, 217th 1, 218th 1, 219th 1, 220th 1, 221st 1, 222nd 1, 223rd 1, 224th 1, 225th 1, 226th 1, 227th 1, 228th 1, 229th 1, 230th 1, 231st 1, 232nd 1, 233rd 1, 234th 1, 235th 1, 236th 1, 237th 1, 238th 1, 239th 1, 240th 1, 241st 1, 242nd 1, 243rd 1, 244th 1, 245th 1, 246th 1, 247th 1, 248th 1, 249th 1, 250th 1, 251st 1, 252nd 1, 253rd 1, 254th 1, 255th 1, 256th 1, 257th 1, 258th 1, 259th 1, 260th 1, 261st 1, 262nd 1, 263rd 1, 264th 1, 265th 1, 266th 1, 267th 1, 268th 1, 269th 1, 270th 1, 271st 1, 272nd 1, 273rd 1, 274th 1, 275th 1, 276th 1, 277th 1, 278th 1, 279th 1, 280th 1, 281st 1, 282nd 1, 283rd 1, 284th 1, 285th 1, 286th 1, 287th 1, 288th 1, 289th 1, 290th 1, 291st 1, 292nd 1, 293rd 1, 294th 1, 295th 1, 296th 1, 297th 1, 298th 1, 299th 1, 300th 1, 301st 1, 302nd 1, 303rd 1, 304th 1, 305th 1, 306th 1, 307th 1, 308th 1, 309th 1, 310th 1, 311st 1, 312nd 1, 313rd 1, 314th 1, 315th 1, 316th 1, 317th 1, 318th 1, 319th 1, 320th 1, 321st 1, 322nd 1, 323rd 1, 324th 1, 325th 1, 326th 1, 327th 1, 328th 1, 329th 1, 330th 1, 331st 1, 332nd 1, 333rd 1, 334th 1, 335th 1, 336th 1, 337th 1, 338th 1, 339th 1, 340th 1, 341st 1, 342nd 1, 343rd 1, 344th 1, 345th 1, 346th 1, 347th 1, 348th 1, 349th 1, 350th 1, 351st 1, 352nd 1, 353rd 1, 354th 1, 355th 1, 356th 1, 357th 1, 358th 1, 359th 1, 360th 1, 361st 1, 362nd 1, 363rd 1, 364th 1, 365th 1, 366th 1, 367th 1, 368th 1, 369th 1, 370th 1, 371st 1, 372nd 1, 373rd 1, 374th 1, 375th 1, 376th 1, 377th 1, 378th 1, 379th 1, 380th 1, 381st 1, 382nd 1, 383rd 1, 384th 1, 385th 1, 386th 1, 387th 1, 388th 1, 389th 1, 390th 1, 391st 1, 392nd 1, 393rd 1, 394th 1, 395th 1, 396th 1, 397th 1, 398th 1, 399th 1, 400th 1, 401st 1, 402nd 1, 403rd 1, 404th 1, 405th 1, 406th 1, 407th 1, 408th 1, 409th 1, 410th 1, 411st 1, 412nd 1, 413rd 1, 414th 1, 415th 1, 416th 1, 417th 1, 418th 1, 419th 1, 420th 1, 421st 1, 422nd 1, 423rd 1, 424th 1, 425th 1, 426th 1, 427th 1, 428th 1, 429th 1, 430th 1, 431st 1, 432nd 1, 433rd 1, 434th 1, 435th 1, 436th 1, 437th 1, 438th 1, 439th 1, 440th 1, 441st 1, 442nd 1, 443rd 1, 444th 1, 445th 1, 446th 1, 447th 1, 448th 1, 449th 1, 450th 1, 451st 1, 452nd 1, 453rd 1, 454th 1, 455th 1, 456th 1, 457th 1, 458th 1, 459th 1, 460th 1, 461st 1, 462nd 1, 463rd 1, 464th 1, 465th 1, 466th 1, 467th 1, 468th 1, 469th 1, 470th 1, 471st 1, 472nd 1, 473rd 1, 474th 1, 475th 1, 476th 1, 477th 1, 478th 1, 479th 1, 480th 1, 481st 1, 482nd 1, 483rd 1, 484th 1, 485th 1, 486th 1, 487th 1, 488th 1, 489th 1, 490th 1, 491st 1, 492nd 1, 493rd 1, 494th 1, 495th 1, 496th 1, 497th 1, 498th 1, 499th 1, 500th 1, 501st 1, 502nd

THE TIMES FRIDAY MAY 31 1996

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Their specialist subject must be retaliation

The reporter who stood outside the Iranian Embassy in May 1980 got the situation just about right, of course. Inside were 20 odd hostages and a gang of armed desperadoes. "Every hour that goes by," the reporter warned solemnly to camera, "is an hour nearer a conclusion of some kind or other."

Well, thank you for that, said a grateful nation. Every hour that goes by does usually mean an hour has gone by. But as far as last night's SAS — The Soldiers' Story on ITV was concerned, it was not quite such a *banal insight* as first appeared. Because, while the country in 1980 absorbed the dubious wisdom of these words, and the clock ticked on the wall, that famous conclusion involving abseil-ropes and machine-guns and exploding french windows was waiting to happen in the house next door. The SAS counted the minutes. "When push comes to

shove, the gloves will come off," said the narrating soldier (a silhouette in a hood). "You don't mess around with men like that. You go in hard and kill them."

So SAS reconstructed the battle for us, with a tasteful "R" at the bottom of the screen, and lots of sound and fury and flaming curtains. Real SAS men have contributed anonymous services to this series, and last night relieved the glory of storming the embassy and pumping bullets into johnny foreigner. No point objecting that the insights of an SAS man make "every-hour-that-goes-by" look like an apercu. "You've got to hit 'em hard," said the soldiers gruffly. "You've got to put a bit of stick about." "They've got to learn, bring your tactics to the UK and you're gonna end up on a slab."

This was not mere posturing, of course. SAS men are brave soldiers, and all that. But to tell the story of the embassy siege without

content — Iran, the Ayatollah, global terrorism, the Home Secretary — is simply remiss. The embassy cat probably had a story to tell, but you wouldn't make a documentary. Sadly, it fuels one's suspicion that SAS is designed to pander to fireman fanatics who love a good rat-tat massacre, and only need to be satisfied that johnny foreigner was asking for it, and got what was coming, and had only himself to blame. The final word was the equivalent of firing bullets in the air. "They thought they were in for a good day out. They just hadn't heard of the SAS."

R etaliation was a bit of a theme last night. I got quite fed up with it. Channel 4's Witness: When Women Kill was a thoughtful but depressing Canadian documentary about three battered women who finally nailed violent husbands. As expert Ann Jones pointed out, the real ques-

tion here was not why women didn't leave abusive relationships, but why the men wouldn't let them. Meanwhile, "justified" retaliation is much harder to prove in a marriage than in an embassy siege, apparently: most legal systems still feel more comfortable with the plea of insanity than with the plea of self-defence.

And then, in the last part of The Poisoned Chalice (BBC2) what

did we find again but European politicians all paying each other back? Jacques Delors is ignored at a press conference by Margaret Thatcher; he pays her back by addressing the TUC at Bournemouth and welcoming the unions to Europe. Mrs Thatcher retaliates with the infamous Bruges speech. How simple it now seems; and how tangled it always is at the time. I realise I have spent the past 30 years whistling with my eyes closed, waiting for *The Poisoned Chalice* to come along and explain all this. I had no idea Chancellor Kohl tried to woo Mrs Thatcher to Europe by means of a nice German boiled pig's stomach. It explains a lot.

The exquisitely painful scalpel-work of *The Poisoned Chalice* has been the exact opposite of the mallet-and-chisel of SAS. Painstakingly, it has unpicked the Gordian knot instead of slicing it through. What with Michael

Cockerell's profile of Lord Jenkins of Hillhead at the weekend, I have rarely felt so well informed with so little effort on my own part. And how pleasant to be reminded of Julie Norman Lamont — was he really like that? How did we ever take him seriously? — now that he is safely in the dim and distant.

Things went a little too far last night when Viv was overheard referring to an Unaccompanied Minor (or "Um") as if he were a kind of parcel. "The Um has gone missing," she exclaimed on the phone. "But I put it on the bus, at the front. How could you miss it?" She described the Um in terms of height ("about two foot") and by sex (a boy), but the non-gender-specific pronoun kept recurring, because from the other side of the fence, passengers are indeed parcels — parcels who complain and weep, wander off blindly, get stuck in the lift, and fall off escalators for the hell of it. Yet Viv, Dave and Jean-Marie never retaliate. Which is why we admire them so much, I expect. And why *Airport* is such good jelly.

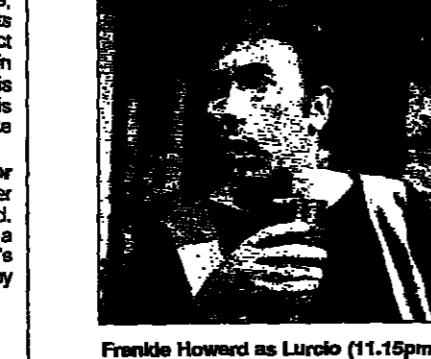
BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (25509)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (49580)
- 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (702074) 9.20 Can't Cook Won't Cook (r) (s) (704959)
- 9.50 FILM: Kidnapped (1971) with Michael Caine, Trevor Howard and Donald Pleasance. Glossy adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's novel. Directed by Debert Mann. Includes 11.00 News and weather (4117803)
- 11.45 The Europeans: France (r) (7307967)
- 12.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (1552039) N.I.: 12.02-1.00 Election 96
- 12.05pm Call My Bluff (s) (5535970)
- 12.35 Going for Gold (s) (4075720)
- 1.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (59567)
- 1.30 Regional News N.I.: 1.30 Newsline 1.40 Neighbours (s) (2522876)
- 2.00 Banacek (r) (3570702)
- 3.10 Feltz: The Cat (r) (5382847) 3.30 Playdays (r) (s) (2019509) 3.50 Monster Cafe (r) (s) (3686883) 4.05 Casper Classics (r) (s) (5004122) 4.10 Little Mouse on the Prairie (Ceefax) (s) (5371870) 4.35 Clarissa Explains It All (r) (Ceefax) (s) (230854) 5.00 Newround (Ceefax) (s) (7757986) 5.10 Blue Peter (Ceefax) (s) (5603493)
- 5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (599035)
- 6.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (577)
- 6.30 Regional News Magazines (257)
- 7.00 Wipeout. Gameshow hosted by Paul Daniels (Ceefax) (s) (7219)
- 7.30 *Science & Technology*: Tomorrow's World. Science and technology magazine (Ceefax) (s) (141)
- 8.00 Only Feet and Horses. Del Boy sees an opportunity to make a quick profit. With David Jason (5667)
- 8.30 Big Break. Jim Davidson hosts the snooker gameshow, in which celebrity players pit on behalf of contestants (Ceefax) (s) (8702)
- 9.00 News (Ceefax); regional news and weather (1141)
- 9.30 999. Michael Buerk and Juliet Morris present stories of heroism and bravery (Ceefax) (s) (345770) N.I.: 9.30 Election 96 10.00 9.00 10.55 FILM: Regarding Henry 12.40pm Dr Terror's House Of Horror (Ceefax) (s) (778826)
- 10.20 FILM: Regarding Henry (1991) with Harrison Ford and Annette Bening. Henry Turner is a ruthless, workaholic New York lawyer who cheats on his wife, tyrannises his daughter and upsets nearly everyone he comes into contact with. All the changes he is shot in the head during a hold-up. Henry is forced to rebuild his life and reassess his values along the way. Directed by Mike Nichols (s) (Ceefax) (46444)
- 12.05 FILM: Dr Terror's House of Horror (1964) with Peter Cushing, Christopher Lee, Roy Castle and Donald Sutherland. Enjoyable horror-fantasy about a mysterious traveller who tells five men's fortunes while on a train. Directed by Freddie Francis (778826)
- 1.40pm Weather (1204420)

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BBC2

- 6.00am Open University: Biology (7622528)
- 6.25 Scenes from Dr Faustus (7601030) 6.50 Global Firms, Shrinking Worlds (3634528)
- 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (4022695)
- 7.30 The Little Polar Bear (4834219) 7.35 William's Wish Wellingtons (2682290)
- 7.40 Peter Pan and the Pirates (4266577) 8.05 Smurfs' Adventures (7727073) 8.30 Mighty Mix (4935505)
- 9.20 Action 8 (7031870) 9.45 SuperTed (3034967) 9.55 Spot (2688040) 10.00 Playdays (269481) 10.25 Star Trek (6201580) 10.50 The Tick (6568232)
- 11.10 Randall and Hopkirk (r) (4502255) 12.00 Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century (s) (16054)
- 12.30pm Working Lunch (43869)
- 1.00 The Little Polar Bear (5887570) 1.05 William's Wish Wellingtons (5987403) 1.10 Open View (s) (58871986) 1.15 The Session (r) (115141) 1.45 Dying for Life (118412)
- 2.15 FILM: For Love of a Child (1990) with Michael Tucker and Kevin Dobson. The child of one family dies in the swimming pool of a neighbouring family. Directed by Kevin James Dobson (64257) N.I.: 2.15pm Election 96 (564257)
- 3.55 News (Ceefax) and weather (6438288)
- 4.00 Today's the Day (s) (670) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (734) 5.00 International Snowflumping (7632) 6.00 Shooting Stars (r) (Ceefax) (s) (219)
- 6.30 The Champions (Ceefax) (540306)
- 7.20 Watch Out. Wildlife news (s) (251344)
- 7.30 Going, Going, Gone. Auction game show (783) N.I.: 7.30 We Are (Not) Amused (783)
- 8.00 Top Gear. Motorsport. Till Needell reports from Silverstone on the fourth round of the GT Endurance Championship (Ceefax) (s) (4508)
- 8.30 Gardeners' World (Ceefax) (s) (6344)
- 9.00 Murder Most Horrid (Ceefax) (s) (9783)
- 9.30 The High Life. Shona presents the insight video (r) (Ceefax) (s) (23823)
- 10.00 Have I Got News for You. Angus Deayton chairs the comedy quiz. With Ian Hislop and Rupert Allinson, MP, and Alan Davies (s) (17783)
- 10.30 Newsnight. Live from Belfast for the results of the Northern Ireland election (Ceefax) (563764)



Franke Howard as Lureo (11.15pm)

11.15 Pilot. Paradise: Up Pompeii. With Frankie Howard (363) (39967)

11.50 Where's This Week? American what's-on (793048)

12.35 FILM: Secret Agent (1936) with John Gielgud and Madeleine Carroll. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. (602979) Ends at 2.05am

Frances Lass

Jack and Jeremy's Real Lives (Channel 4, 10.30pm)

7.00 Soldier, Soldier: Hard Knocks. As the only woman in the regiment, Lieutenant Kate Butler (Lesley Vickerage) is determined to prove herself (r) (Teletext) (4580)

10.00 News and weather (Teletext) (11509)

10.30 Central News (Teletext) and Weather (871306)

10.40 FILM: A Fine Mess (1986) starring Ted Danson, Howe Mandel and Richard Mulligan. A cat-and-mouse chase develops when an actor attempts to expose two men doping a race-horse. Directed by Blake Edwards (3149394)

12.20pm Hotel Babylon (369933)

12.40 Hotel Babylon (s) (2044333) 1.00 The Good Sex Guide... Late (s) (1302268)

2.20 Cue the Music: Curtis Stigers (5084246) 3.20 Dear Nick (r) (4050315)

4.15 Jobfinder (116265)

5.20 Asian Eye (5659791)

5.30 Morning News (30975)

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12.40 Hotel Babylon (s) (2044333) 1.00 The Good Sex Guide... Late (s) (1302268)

2.20 Cue the Music: Curtis Stigers (5084246) 3.20 Dear Nick (r) (4050315)

4.15 Jobfinder (116265)

5.20 Asian Eye (5659791)

5.30 Morning News (30975)

9.00 Soldier, Soldier: Hard Knocks. As the only woman in the regiment, Lieutenant Kate Butler (Lesley Vickerage) is determined to prove herself (r) (Teletext) (4580)

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ROE OPTS TO TURN BACK ON US OPEN

SPORT

FRIDAY MAY 31 1996

RACING 41

CARSON WINS HIS APPEAL AGAINST FIVE-DAY BAN

2W

New ball upsets the established order on clay courts of French Open

Rusedski bows out in battle of big servers

FROM DAVID MILLER IN PARIS

THE debate is on. Will the faster, smaller tennis balls in use at the French Open championships produce a serve-and-volley winner such as Pete Sampras, Goran Ivanisevic, Michael Stich or Marc Rosset? The first, indeed, since Yannick Noah in 1983. The straight-set win yesterday by Stich against Greg Rusedski, by 6-3, 7-5, 6-3, in the second round of the men's singles suggests that he could be one of those in the frame.

The big-hearted, big-serving but limited Rusedski, Canadian-born of Ukrainian, Russian and Polish heritage but representing Great Britain, probably diminished his chance by not attacking the net. Stich's planned strategy of forcing him back worked all too well.

After the five-set victory by Sampras, the No 1 seed, the previous day, when he beat Sergi Bruguera, the Spanish clay-court specialist, Ivanisevic yesterday whipped David Wheaton, another big server, 7-5, 6-2, 6-4. The evidence was accumulating.

Thomas Muster, the defending champion, added to it with his comments after beating Gerard Soler, of France, for the loss of only four games. "I think they [the balls] might be a little lighter and faster," he said. "If it's warm like this, they fly more... I just think that all the tournaments before the French Open should use the same ball. Otherwise, why would you play Hamburg and Rome as a preparation if they use a different ball?"

Muster, who is hitting the ball as though he was carrying a shoulder-mortar, added that he considered Paris to be the fastest of all clay-court events and that it can be advantageous to the serve-and-volleyer (by contrast, he tends to stay back and overwhelm opponents by devastating ground-stroke power). Paris is as fast, he said, as the synthetic hard courts at the US Open. "It is the running that is

different," he said, "because, on a hard court, you cannot slide."

The balls, manufactured by Dunlop-France, are 10 per cent faster because of reduction in size to the legal minimum limit and because of technical development of the felt and rubber. Although the character of clay-court play carries a special charm, the improved scope for the volleyer is to be welcomed. The interminable rallies of a decade or so ago were as unacceptable as Wimbledon's three-shot equivalents. When

Results 39
Bjorn Borg beat Guillermo Vilas in the Paris final of 1978, the second point of the first game lasted 94 strokes.

The luckless Soler probably hit barely that number of strokes in the entire match. It was a strange contrast: Muster grunting painfully on every shot as though shifting cement bags. Soler remaining silent, other than when some unforced error would draw from him a distinctively French noise of disappointment. Muster, the No 2 seed, now meets Adrian Voinea, of Romania.

The possible turning points for Rusedski in his match with Stich came and went in the

Ivanisevic: powerful

third and ninth games of the second set, in each of which he had two break points. He had another to break back for 4-3 in the third set, but, by then, Stich, the Wimbledon champion in 1991 and Grand Slam Cup-winner the next year, had the match fully in hand.

Considering that, in Milan this year, while preparing to meet Guy Forget, Stich damaged the ankle that he had seriously injured in 1995 and underwent an operation, his form is better than he might have expected. For a tall man – 6ft 4in – he has excellent mobility and the patience and stability to play the slower clay-court game. Yet it was his service that proved too much for Rusedski.

Without being patronising,

Stich, who at 27 is five years older, said that he had felt that Rusedski was unsure how he should tactically play the match. "I was surprised he stayed back as much, didn't come in to volley," Stich said.

"His game is based on serve and is dangerous on fast surfaces. To have a chance, he's got to play serve-and-volley."

At 1-1 in the second set, two forced errors found Stich at 30-40, which he saved with a drive-volley. A good backhand return and Stich's netted half-volley gave Rusedski another game point, which Stich retrieved with a first service. There were five more deuces, on all of them Stich having advantage, before he levelled for 2-2.

A perfect dipping backhand service return gave Rusedski 40-15 at 4-4, but again two first services came to Stich's rescue. Significantly, he was able to produce his best strokes when under pressure, a quality that Rusedski could not match. Rusedski managed to save two set points at 6-5; on the third, Stich outplayed him.

If he plays like that through the tournament, he has a chance of winning," Rusedski said. "He seemed to tire in the second set, but played great break points. For me, it was a positive experience, but I have to learn how to win the big points." He added that Brian Teacher, his new coach, the American who is working with him on an experimental basis, had improved his backhand and that he had been trying to keep up the hopes of his adopted nation. If he serves well, he thinks that anything is pos-



Rusedski delivers a typically heavy service against Stich yesterday, but it was all in vain

sible at Wimbledon. Stich now meets Mikael Tillström, of Sweden, with a prospective confrontation with Muster in the last 16. Ivanisevic, the No 5 seed, wearing that hawk-like expression that must intimidate his prey, produced an all-court game to snuff out Wheaton. In the previous round, Wheaton had hit 19 aces. Now, little would work. Just when it seemed that he might flicker into life, with a break back for 4-4 in the third set, Ivanisevic produced a stunning backhand pass, a fine forehand volley and a backhand cross-court return of service to reach 5-4 — a warning for Chang. The No 4 seed, whom he is scheduled to meet in the quarter-finals.

Building society sponsors league

BY PETER BALL

THE Football League may be the poor relation in English football these days, but the sums going into the nation's second league next season would happily be grabbed by several other leading sports.

A new £25 million sponsorship deal over three years was agreed between the league and Nationwide Building Society yesterday to add to the new television deal with Sky, which will earn the league £12 million over five years.

The sums may not prevent the gap between the Premier League and the rest becoming unbridgeable, but they should ensure, at the least, that the league remains viable in its own terms.

Nationwide Building Society, who replace Endsleigh Insurance as the league's sponsor, clearly think so. The Nationwide Football League has a ring to it that Endsleigh never achieved, and it is a statement of fact. The Football League may lack the glamour and hype of the FA Carling Premiership, but the country's oldest league covers the nation from Carlisle to Plymouth.

"Nationwide's outlook is very close to our own because any national league, despite its competitive nature, has to operate in the best interests of its members," Gordon McKeag, the Football League president, said yesterday.

"The reach and geographical spread of both Nationwide and league football also demonstrates that we have common interests deeply rooted in the fabric of local communities up and down the country. It would be difficult to imagine a more perfect combination."

Barclays enjoyed perhaps the most rewarding football sponsorship of all time during their six years until the greed of the big clubs tore the Football League apart. Nationwide might not quite match that, but it could enjoy relative success.

"Nationwide is an organisation with strong roots in the community," Brian Davis, Nationwide's chief executive, said. "We are always looking at ways of promoting awareness of the benefits we can offer and I believe this deal represents good value for both Nationwide and the Football League."

World Cup vote, page 38

Athletes may avoid ban after drug tests

BY JOHN GOODBODY

MORE than 200 of Great Britain's Olympic competitors will undergo special drugs testing before Atlanta, but, even if some of them are found positive, they will not be barred from taking part in the Games.

Although the British Olympic Association (BOA) believes that the new, highly-sensitive equipment at St Thomas' Hospital, London, may catch some competitors, it also fears a successful legal challenge, because the machine has yet to be accepted fully by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The Sports Council said yesterday that two sets of tests will be carried out by Dr David Cowan, the head of the IOC-accredited laboratory at King's College London, as part of an enhanced out-of-competition programme.

The first will be at King's, which does not own a high-resolution mass spectrometer, that will cost £300,000 to install. The other tests will be on the new machine at St Thomas' and will cost the BOA and Sports Council about £7,000.

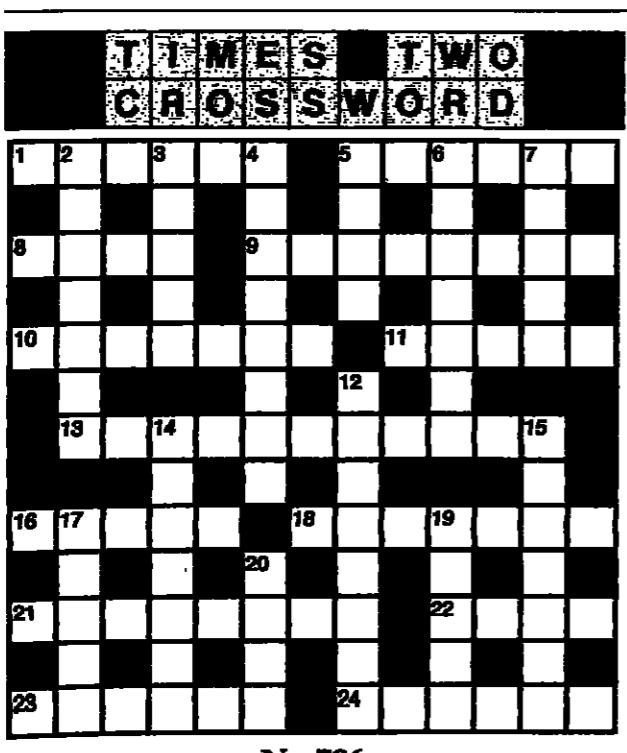
A Sports Council spokeswoman said: "If anyone is found positive at King's, then that competitor will be barred from going to Atlanta. However, if the positive is declared at St Thomas', then only the national governing body of that athlete will be informed."

The BOA hopes that the competitor will then withdraw from the Games to save himself and the team from possible embarrassment in Atlanta, where the highly-sensitive mass spectrometer will be used on all samples. However, it is still questionable whether the IOC will act on the results.

The new equipment can detect banned substances in lower concentrations and more retrospectively. Competitors who have taken drugs several months before can be caught.

Two months ago, Tamas Aján, the secretary of the International Weightlifting Federation, announced that 11 competitors had tested positive using the conventional machine. When the high-tech mass spectrometer was employed, however, this figure rose to 78.

Scotland lose, page 39



Ramprakash opens century account

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

LORD'S (first day of four; Middlesex won toss): Middlesex have scored 322 for five against Yorkshire

WHEN Mark Ramprakash sparkles as he did here, adoring the first proper day of summer with wonderful strokes, his inability to establish himself as a Test batsman can bring only regrets. To make his first century of the season, he had to play well, and he did, building his innings from a wary start to dominate the bowlers completely before Hartley bowled him for 134.

He has never played like this for England, and it is unlikely now that he ever will.

People who do not take their chances find future opportunities withdrawn. After his miserable time against West Indies last summer and his temperamental problems during the winter in South Africa, Ramprakash is no longer in the selectors' thoughts.

Yet had an overseas visitor

me, it was a positive experience, but I have to learn how to win the big points." He added that Brian Teacher, his new coach, the American who is working with him on an experimental basis, had improved his backhand and that he had been trying to keep up the hopes of his adopted nation. If he serves well, he thinks that anything is pos-

sible at Wimbledon. Stich now

meets Mikael Tillström, of Sweden, with a prospective confrontation with Muster in the last 16.

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most memorable. In the same over from Silverwood, he pushed one ball back past the bowler, flicked another through mid-wicket and, best of all, eased a third to extra cover.

The day needed a touch of class after Harrison, making his championship debut, laboured through 46 overs for 37. Weekes went early to Hartley and Pooley was bowled, offering no stroke to Gough, so Harrison had cause to be cautious.

After Harrison had shared 100 for the third wicket with Ramprakash, Gattting's innings was brief. Carr stayed to reach stumps on 58.

Hostilities resumed, page 40

Other scoreboards, page 40

LORD'S SCOREBOARD

MIDDLESEX: First innings

P N Weeks c Blake b Hartley 26

J C Pooley c Blake b White 37

M F Pooley c Blake b White 16

J D Carr not out 58

J E Gough c Blake b White 33

J Weekes c Blake b White 14

Tons: 100, 104 overs 322

A RC Foster, RA Fay, P C R Tufnell and D Follett to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-5, 2-35, 3-135,

4-182, 5-265.

BOWLING: Gough 20-55-1; Hartley 16-63-1; Morris 9-2-30-0, Stump 21-6

53-0; Bevan 2-0-10-0.

YORKSHIRE: D Byas, M P Vaughan, M G Bawen, A McGrath, C White, H J Morris (24, nb 10) 110

JK R Brown not out 33

D E Byas (24, nb 10) 14

Tons: 100, 104 overs 322

A RC Foster, RA Fay, P C R Tufnell and D Follett to bat.

Come in Brewster, your time is up

Edward Gorman finds record-chaser

all at sea as Blyth demands boat back

voyage would not qualify as a record since she would not have covered the distance required by the World Sailing Speed Record Council.

Blyth, however, who was the first to complete a non-stop westward circumnavigation in 1972, is adamant that this voyage should not continue longer than necessary. "It's ridiculous trying to break a record from Santos to Santos," he said yesterday. "I mean, where the hell is Santos? I wish I'd never heard of the place."

"We'd like the boat. She will still have sailed around the world single-handed, although not non-stop, and that is still an amazing achievement for a lady, going against the prevailing winds and currents; but if she goes all the

way down to Santos, it'll cause us problems."

Blyth, who rented the boat out for around £350,000, has it earmarked for an important promotional tour of the United States, which is supposed

to begin in September. This will follow a substantial refit lasting about 12 weeks, when it will be repainted in the livery of Toshiba, the Japanese electronics giant. If Brewster does go down to Santos, she may not arrive until August; it will take another six weeks to get back.

Brewster, who has fought bravely to keep her voyage on course, is off west Africa, struggling in rainy weather without much wind as she tries to weigh up her options.

John Mackenzie-Green, the chief executive of Heath Insured, said: "If that lot [The Challenge Business] says she's got to come back early, I'll fight them tooth and nail." Mackenzie-Green will let Brewster make up her mind.

With Brewster now about four weeks from Finisterre, a final decision will have to be made soon. If she does go to Brazil, it will be a great and historic achievement.



Brewster in dilemma

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Clinton surrenders memos to head off Congress clash

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S aides narrowly averted another batch of damaging headlines yesterday by partially acceding to a congressional demand for subpoenaed "Travelgate" documents just hours before a vote to hold the White House in contempt of Congress.

The President's lawyers turned over some, but not all, the documents that the House committee investigating the dismissal in 1993 of the White House travel office had been demanding. William Clinger, the committee's Republican chairman, immediately postponed the House vote scheduled for last night while he reviewed the documents.

After Tuesday's convictions of Mr Clinton's former Whitewater business partners on fraud charges, the last thing the President needed was a high-profile clash with Congress on another issue with scandalous overtones.

The committee has been investigating issues related to the travel office dismissals, including whether Hillary Clinton or her aides sought to cover up the First Lady's role in those dismissals, and whether the White House improperly used the FBI or Internal Revenue Service to investigate the office's seven employees.

The subpoenaed documents included memoranda to the President and memoranda discussing Mr and Mrs Clinton's confidential testimony to



Starr: releasing FBI files on First Lady

room". Mr Clinger responded by accusing Mr Clinton of claiming executive privilege in an attempt to "cover up a scandal having no connection with any national security or vital domestic issue". Had last night's vote gone ahead, it would have authorised Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, to seek criminal charges against Jack Quinn, the White House counsel, and two former presidential aides —

Gain from working with TV pain

BY QUENTIN LETTS

STAFF at a US television station have been paid bonuses to compensate for the misery of working with a demanding news presenter.

Kristin Jeannette-Meyers, a news anchorwoman for Court TV, made life unusually difficult for her colleagues. She took ages in make-up, would leave the set if displeased, betrayed a quick temper and demanded a chair which would make her appear as tall as her co-anchor. Her competitive zeal paid off —

the studio technicians resisted low tactics such as camera wobble and focus drift. Mr Brill was so grateful for their forbearance that he divided up \$15,000 that Miss Jeannette-Meyers' new employer paid to Court TV as compensation for "poaching" her. He acknowledged the "pain and suffering" of staff who worked with her.

She left the station last week. It was, reportedly, one of those rare office farewells at which the expressions of delight at the departing colleague's new job were heartfelt.

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Knesset
ayatollah
threatens
lives

*FBI follows arms trail to Peking officials

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

EVEN hardened agents of the American Federal Bureau of Investigation, posing as Miami gangsters, were astounded when their contacts acting for Chinese arms companies indicated just before their arrest last week that they could offer mortars, rocket-launchers, machine-guns and hand-held surface-to-air missiles.

The FBI men believed them. The seven objects of their "sting" had already delivered \$4 million (£2.64 million) of Chinese AK-47 automatic rifles and ammunition.

"It's quite a thought," a Washington official said, musing about the missiles. "There you are, landing at Miami airport, and down below some bastard who's failed to black-mail the airline which flies your jumbo has you in his crosshairs."

The FBI has arrested seven suspects in the operation, which was triggered too soon to catch the biggest Peking-based fish because American newspapers were preparing to divulge details. Arrest warrants have been issued for seven more, including two senior officials at Norinco, a state-owned firm which supplies weapons to the People's Liberation Army and is under the control of the State Council, chaired by Li Peng, the Prime Minister.

The US agency has also accused another firm, Polytechnologies, of involvement. This is an army enterprise headed by He Ping, a son-in-law of Deng Xiaoping, the senior leader.

Both firms immediately denied claims that they were involved in the arms deal.



Mitterrand: defended by illegitimate daughter

Mitterrand daughter fights back

FROM SUSAN BELL
IN PARIS

MAZARINE PINGEOT, the illegitimate daughter of François Mitterrand, the late President, has granted her first interview to *Paris Match*, France's best-known weekly magazine. She berates the French media as "unscrupulous" and pays homage to her father as "a humanist" and "a self-taught man of the Left" who led a "model life".

France learns of her existence less than two years ago when the magazine was responsible for "revealing" what the chartering classes had known for years when it published photographs of the student with Ali, her North African boyfriend.

Mme Pingeot, 21, daughter of Mitterrand's long-term mistress, Anne Pingeot, said she agreed to the interview to publicise the opening of the Institut François Mitterrand of which she is a founding member. Its mission is to "contribute to the knowledge of contemporary French political and social history". Tens of thousands of political papers dating back to before the Second World War and including his terms in office will be available to researchers.

Western Sahara peace bid starts to crumble

Rabat: United Nations efforts to avert renewed conflict in Western Sahara have begun to collapse after a Security Council vote to suspend registration of the native Sahrawi people for a referendum on self-determination. (Mark Huband writes).

The registration process has been blocked since disagreement between Morocco and the Polisario Front, after Morocco's attempts to register

Chefs honour Proust in remembrance of fine repast

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN ILLIERS-COMBRAY

FRANCE'S twin obsessions with great writing and good food have come together in the Eure-et-Loir region, southwest of Paris, where more than 40 local chefs have launched a gastro-literary crusade entitled *A table avec Marcel Proust*.

Throughout this month, restaurants in the region where Proust spent his summers have been offering a range of dishes based on those lovingly described in his masterpiece, *A la Recherche du Temps Perdu* (*Remembrance of Things Past*).

Despite his ill health, Proust's appetite was remarkably robust and Anne Borrel, Secretary-General of the Marcel Proust Society, has filleted his great novel to come up with a vast array of delicacies, including *Boeuf à la mode*, *Asperges à toutes les sauces* and, of course, the memory-susfused *madeline*.

Proust's simple but substantial dishes could hardly be further removed from nouvelle cuisine, and those who find his prose occasionally hard to digest might feel the same about some of the 15 different menus drawn up in honour of the great writer.

The project kicked off last month, for example, with a



Table for three: Jeremy Irons, centre, Alain Delon and Ornella Muti in *Swann in Love*, based on Proust's work

dyspepsia-defying banquet of six courses, each with its relevant quotation. Some restaurants are offering Proust dishes, while others provide entire menus with titles such as "The Uncle Jules", "The Jean Santeuil" and "The Nor-

pois Dinner". Roast Swann is not on offer, although many dishes are named after Proust's character.

The current campaign to revive old-fashioned French cuisine would have found favour with Proust, whose

culinary tastes were, as Mme Borrel explains, firmly in the "traditional bourgeois" camp.

Few writers have better appreciated the link between food and words. Indeed, after

a particularly toothsome dinner in 1909, Proust wrote a note to his cook, Céline Cotin, wondering whether his writing would live up to her cooking. "I hope," he wrote, "that my style is as brilliant, clear and solid as your aspic — that my ideas are as flavourful as your carrots, and as nourish-

ing and fresh as your meat. While waiting to complete my own work, I congratulate you on yours."

Illiers-Combray, 15 miles from Chartres, where Proust spent his summers at "the house of Tante Léonie" and which he immortalised in his work, is the centre of the campaign to put Proust on the culinary map.

There, at Le Florent restaurant opposite the church often referred to by Swann, Henri Priolet, the chef, is offering a complete Marcel Proust menu for £15 (£23).

Here can be sampled the *Boeuf à la mode* that so inspired the author. "The cold beef with carrots made its appearance," Proust wrote, "bedded down by the Michelangelo of our *k-pen* on enormous crystals of jelly like blocks of transparent "artz."

Or a strawberry *mousse* prompted by this passage: "What is this pretty, round thing we are eating?" asked Sisi.

That is called strawberry *mousse*, said Mme Verdon. "It's fan-tastic."

The *Dining with Proust* project has proved so popular that a second edition is ready being planned at Mme Borrel has brought a cookbook entitled *Proust Rediscovered Cuisine* with chef Alain Senderens.



THE SUNDAY TIMES

1000 MAKERS OF SPORT



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SUNDAY

Face to face with 'the most beautiful' Fox brother

Life, love and mid-life crisis, by Robert Fox

Third child is the sister," Angela Fox told me once, when I was pregnant with child number three. "With the first, you put on too much pressure; the second is a rebel and a mystery; but the third you just sort of bung in the bed and leave alone. So the third grows up much the most relaxed and normal and enjoys himself."

Ever since then, having met Bard (who is charming) James (ditto) I have felt a certain curiosity about Robert, third and least-known Fox brother. "Robert has the best of the three and has lost his intuitive thing, it is not half bad," Angela says. "And is more beautiful than the other two put together." His mother is prone to being rather sweeping statements, often but not always true, Robert says. He sees his Fox looks as small round glasses, and shout above the clash in at Conran's Mezzo restaurant in Wardour Street. "It's not that easy, I did rebel, behaved badly away from home."

Actually, it was the remarkable matriarch Angela, now alerted me to the fact that Robert, now 44 and a solo theatre producer, has made his name. A Month by the Lake, set on a charming lakeside story, set in the 1930s and stars Vanessa Redgrave, Paul Scofield, Leslie Grantham, father of Michael, was Robert's godfather. As Angela has written, all her famous sons have, in turn, astonished and exasperated her with their fallings in and out of love and fame.

She was a giddy young thing herself once, daughter of "Glitter" Worthington, a doctor's wife, and the playwright Freddie Lonsdale. At RADA, she inspired Noel Coward's song Don't Put Your Daughters On The Stage Mrs Worthington, as the Miss Worthington whose bust was definitely too developed for her age.

She never dreamt that her eldest son Edward would ever be able to act: William (known as James) was the one with natural talent — and he confounded everyone by abandoning his film fame to join the evangelical Christian group The Navigators.

When Robert was at Harrow, James seemed the pinnacle of glamour and the epitome of Swinging London. "He used to drive up to the school in summer in his purple Lotus Elan, the height of chic. It would annoy and impress the other boys in equal measure."

Robert could not understand his mother's tears of joy.

The sons of the glamorous agent Robin Fox, the Foxes grew up surrounded by people: Marleys,

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



stand his brother's defection. "I thought he was mad. He cut himself off from all of us and his past in a way that was inexplicable to those closest to him. And in doing so hurt a great many people. But it was obviously what he had to do. He was leaving one reality and creating another. And now he has come back, and he is a very strong family man, father of five and a very good dad."

Angela tells in her memoir Slightly Foxed of going to watch Robert playing cricket at Harrow one day. Bored by the cricket, she went indoors to watch Wimbledon in the housemaster's study. And on the television screen she saw, in the royal box next to Princess Marina, the unmistakable figure of her husband Robin. "Thus did I learn of his friendship with this elegant royal lady ... I was the last woman in London to know."

Despite everything, the Fox parents stayed together for 35 years, until his death from cancer in 1971. "My father never flaunted his infidelity,"

'If you could bottle hits, we'd all do them'

Robert says. "It's my mother who has turned him into this famous Lothario."

Robin told his youngest son that if he rejected university he would have to fend for himself. So Robert went to the Royal Court and got himself his first

and last acting role, in Christopher Hampton's When Did You Last See My Mother? He found his own performance "embarrassing".

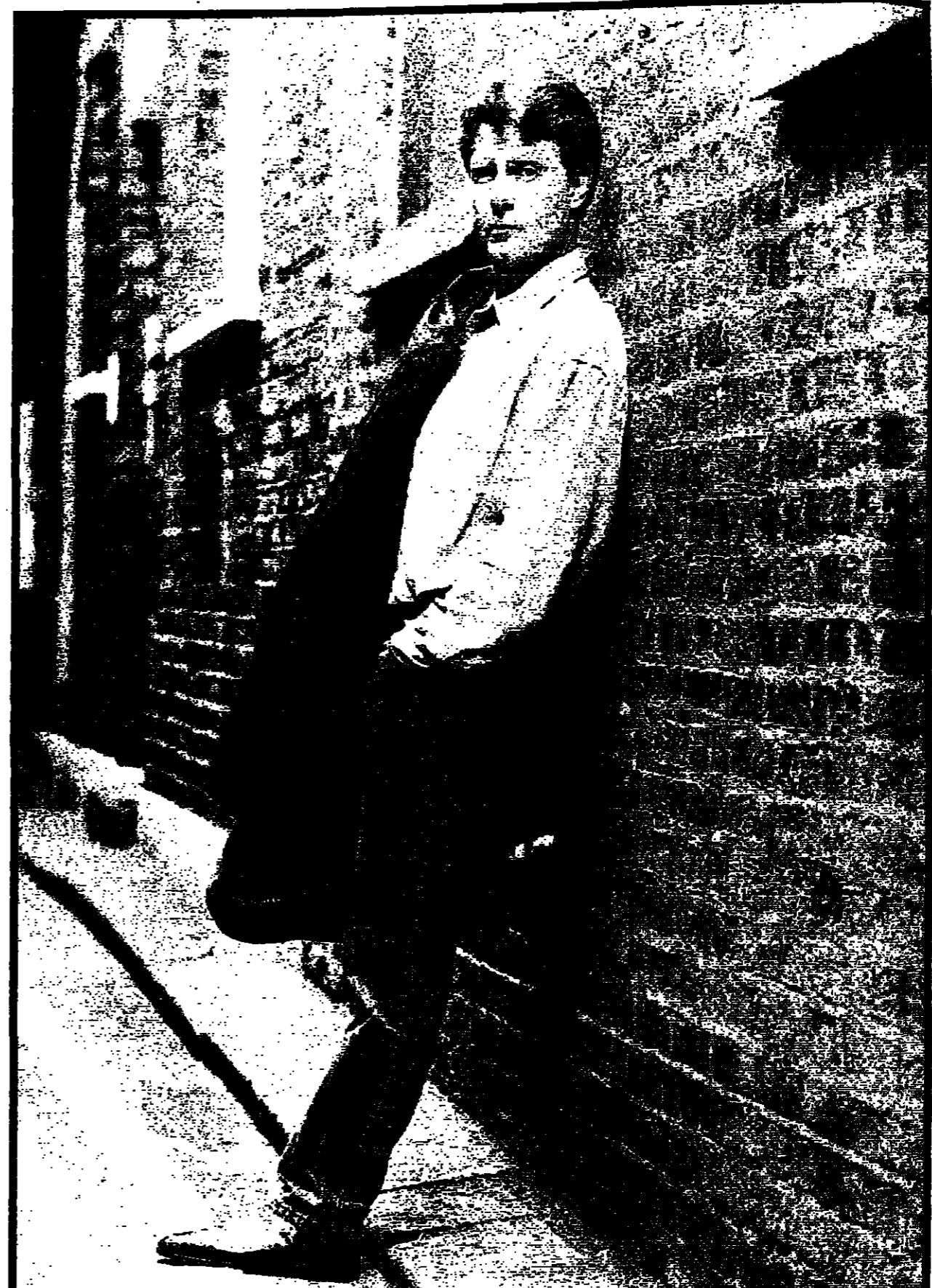
Instead he joined the impresario Michael White in producing a string of hits: The Rocky Horror Show, A Chorus Line, Annie; and also the occasional flop (Corpse, The Sloane Ranger Revue). "If you could bottle the alchemy that made a hit, nobody would ever do anything else. Until everything comes together on the first night, you really never know. It's utterly elusive, and scary, and unique. You open and close in a night, or run ten years."

He went solo in 1981: Anyone For Denis? Another Country, Lettice and Lovage, and dozens more since. Turning to film production happened by chance when he ran into the writer Trevor Bentham, taking tea at the Waldorf with Nicholas Hytner and Nigel Hawthorne. Bentham told him about A Month by the Lake.

Fox read it and thought it ideal for his then mother-in-law, Vanessa; she suggested brother Edward to play opposite her — the obvious choice, as a repressed English major.

Having asked John Irvin to direct, Robert set about trying to raise the money in Britain. Hopeless. "The BBC and Channel 4 turned us down. God forbid," he says, "that they should back an old-fashioned romantic love story about people over the age of 50." It was Harvey Weinstein of Miramax (Enchanted April, The Crying Game, My Left Foot) who wrote the cheque. "So the chance of anyone making a profit out of it in this country vanishes."

Off they all went for eight weeks' shooting on Lake Como in May 1994. Luckily, although



The third brother: Robert Fox has spent a life surrounded by theatre people and falling in and out of love and fame

though Robert had by now separated from Natasha Richardson, he had remained friends with Vanessa. "And Natasha was getting married in America at the end of our schedule, and I had to be the one to tell Vanessa she couldn't go to the wedding because we were running out of time and money. She was, of course, totally professional about it."

Such is the kind of glorious muddle that the two most famous showbusiness dynasties must by now be accustomed to. Robert had left his first wife Celestia, mother of his children Chloe, Sam and Louis, when he fell in love with Natasha Richardson while producing The Seagull. After three years together, they married, whereupon Natasha left him for Liam Neeson.

Robert was utterly distraught. He was in the midst of producing The Importance of Being Earnest with Maggie Smith. It was, he says, a classic mid-life crisis at the age

of their baby son, and Natasha's by Neeson, were born within a fortnight of each other. Robert and Fiona married in February, and live in a pretty house in Shepherds Bush near where Robert plays tennis at the Vanderbilt.

In the new film, there is a crucial tennis scene between Vanessa and Edward Fox both aged 59, complete with wooden 1930s rackets. "A nightmare to shoot," Robert says. "With tennis, the camera is never in the right place. Every time we began, it would start raining. Until finally Miramax said they would pull the plug on the money if we weren't out of there that afternoon, and John Irvin was screaming, 'If I don't

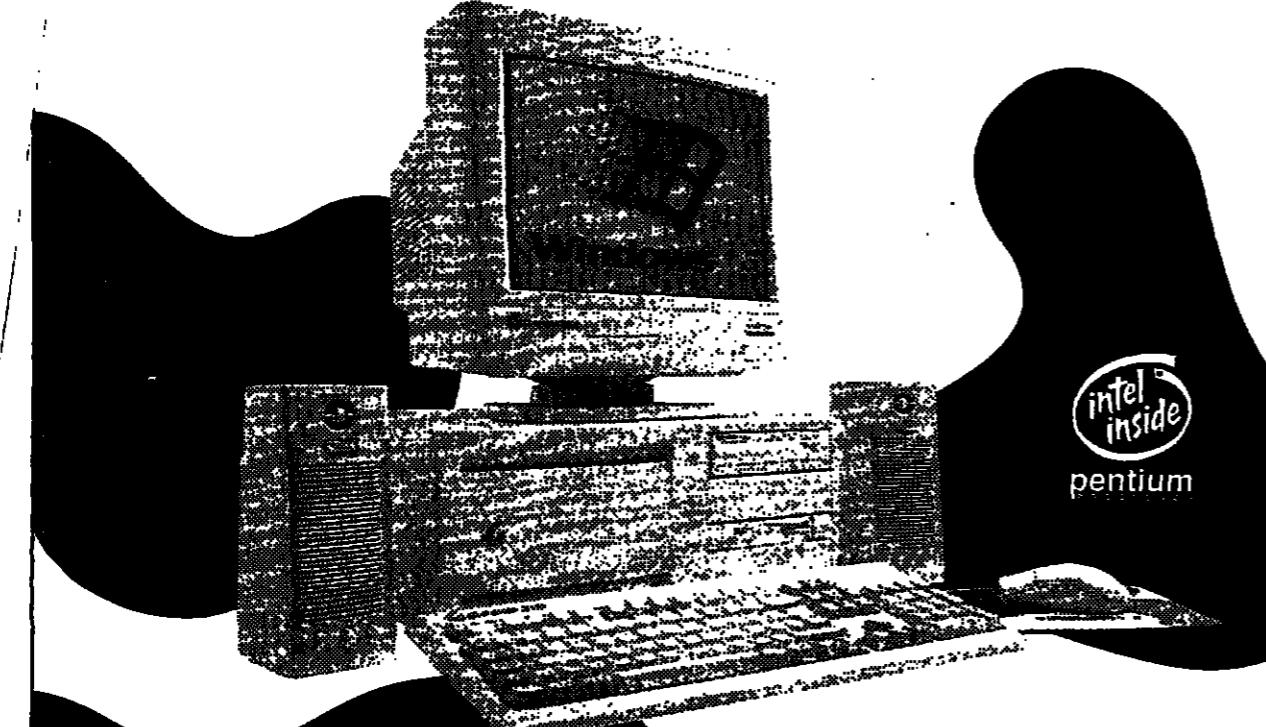
have the tennis, I don't have a film' — so they just managed to finish the game on the last day." I shall not divulge the outcome but you may remember that the statuesque Vanessa played Renée Richards, and the match is reminiscent of the Billie Jean King/Bobby Riggs match.

Is not abandoning the theatre, although he says it is increasingly difficult to do his kind of play — as the habit of going to plays "in a West End which is not a pleasant or comfortable place to visit" wanes. This autumn, he is taking David Hare's Skylight to New York; bringing over the New York hit Callas; and producing Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? with Diana Rigg and David Suchet at the

Almeida in September. There will also be another film, to be shot in Ireland, of Cecile Day-Lewis's The Private Wound, directed by his daughter Tamzin Day-Lewis, with Claran Hinds.

"Putting things together," he says, "is like doing jigsaw puzzles. I started learning this game unwittingly, by osmosis, when I would sit in my father's office or at home listening to him doing business on the phone. It's always the same: manoeuvring people, dealing with personalities and gently, firmly cajoling and encouraging them towards a pen they don't necessarily want to be herded into. And of course, talking about money. I never thought this would be my life, but I fell into it."

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of 40, and he went to a psychotherapist. "I do recommend it. I do recommend it to someone completely objective, not emotionally involved in your life, allows you to say things you would never say to a friend. It is very constructive." He was so impressed he went on to Freudian analysis "which lasted about three sessions. Lying on the bloody bed, not getting any response at all drove me absolutely mental. So that was that."

As he discovered, nothing makes you feel better about loss except finding someone else — which he did: Fiona Golfar, Vogue contributing editor. They had first met when she was 17, but then met again at a weekend house-party. "I think it was 1994 — Joe was born in July 1995."

INSIDE SECTION

2

Caitlin Moran on the teenage wonders carving up the pop charts Arts, page 32



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A few Crisp confessions

The flamboyant Quentin Crisp has had to adapt to life in very downtown Manhattan, reports Quentin Letts

CONSIDERING lunch, Quentin Crisp pursed his lips, paused, then spoke in a slow voice that was half Margaret Rutherford, half child: "I would like a fried egg sandwich on white bread, with mashed potato. Please."

Crisp, formerly England's "most stately homo", emigrated in 1982 to New York and is now aged 81. He was dressed all in black, so it seemed a very white lunch with the yolks hidden and the mash all pale and weary; dry, too, for the egg was overcooked, the spud butterless and his coffee cup was not filled until the last, neat, num-like little mouthful.

The afternoon held several surprises. Lunch having been dispensed with, this gay pioneer attacked homosexual marriage, which he considered "absurd — and very offensive to people who believe in the sacrament of marriage". He had a go at the "scandalous" Princess of Wales, whom so many of his fraternity hold dear. "She knew the racket before she joined the Royal Family," he said.

He also indicated a belief in God, even a fear, yet he was accompanied that day by a weird, 50-something man called Fishburn who wore grey slacks, a dull face and in his pocket packed a wad of hardcore pornography, which he offered me, with a nasal leer. "If you're interested I can get you into S and M parties," grunted Fishburn, as if that were a privilege equal to admittance to the Masons.

This was all lost on Crisp, who was loading his brimful coffee with two sugars, two creams, and so had to lower his tips and slurp noisily when sampling the first inch or two.

The turquoise neon lights in his regular lunch haunt, an East Greenwich Village diner, matched the pale wash in Crisp's hair. "I sit here in the front window like a Dutch tart watching the world go by," he said. On his left breast was pinned a fake medal, presented by a Boston jeweller in honour of the day that he addressed the Gay Businessmen's Council. "A room full of sinners in three-piece suits," he recalled.

Whips of that bluish hair protruded from the brim of his fedora but back at his room he discarded the hat to unveil a



Quentin Crisp, for all his gay declamations, controversial life and years in analyst-crazy New York, still retains a very English self-restraint

I sit here in the front window like a Dutch tart watching the world go by

company of a gay friend. Mrs Stallone offered to read his stars, and wanted to know his birthday. "Christmas Day," replied Crisp. She pointed out that this meant he shared a birthday with Jesus of Nazareth but that she could not say if that meant he, too, would save the world.

"People are my pastime," said Crisp, though perhaps what he really meant was New York people, the madder the better. In the book he lists those he has met, from the Elton John impersonator to the local Hell's Angels. Henry "Al" Majette, who has spent

the past four years begging on Second Avenue, complained loftily that "this neighbourhood has really gone down recently, and it's only people like Mr Crisp give it class". In the middle of a busy pavement Crisp preened himself and posed for photographs. "Yo, Mr Crisp!" shouted Al. "And a good day to you," Crisp replied, reaching in to his threadbare trouser pocket absent-mindedly to drop something in to the hobo's paper cup. The coin was brown — a cent.

What it lacks is someone special. The Crisp diaries are devoid of expressions of love or appreciations of beauty. "I only know people superficially," Crisp said over lunch. It was the one time he appeared uneasy and he started to fiddle with his cutlery. "I only meet them in the street. I can't remember anybody and that is sad, because they want to be remembered. I think feelings are untrustworthy." Love was not something he recognised. It would be vulgar, letting oneself go, and that is not his thing. Here is a man who has never been properly drunk.

Crisp moved to Manhattan because he was bored with the way people in Britain treated him like an old Stilton, turning up noses and thinking him ripe. He had met a New Yorker, who seemed amusing, and who said: "Oh, you must come and stay."

The man was less keen on the idea when Crisp duly arrived on his doorstep, however, so our heroine contacted the only other person he knew in town and was grateful to be allowed to sleep on the sofa for a couple of nights until he found a home of his own.

A home, if that is the word, was found and has not been

than my dressing gown." He pays £75 a week for this dump. Surely he can afford better? "If I knew I was going to die in three years I would move," he agreed. "But money is for saving, not spending." This was the opposite of his belief that life is for spending. Yet his books make money, he receives regular commissions to write and talk, and he has enough folding stuff to contemplate dividing his will among three nieces.

The funniest passage in his diaries describes the day an ambulance inexplicably arrived at his door and took him to hospital, without bidding or explanation. He was stripped

of all his clothes save his underpants, at which point a Filipino nurse entered and, with a Clint Eastwood snarl, said that she would have them, too.

Against such odds even the most valiant Englishman can wilt. Crisp describes the scene with verve, but the enduring image is of an old man, skinny and shivering and somehow, for all his bluster and repartee, really rather sad. After all the years the civil servant was again naked, and not happy in the slightest.

• Resident Alien — the New York Diaries, by Quentin Crisp, HarperCollins, £16.99, is published on June 30

Have I got boos for you

Joe Joseph on the hidden dangers of being a celebrity guest on *Have I Got News For You*

THERE you were, thinking that maybe *Have I Got News For You* was finally becoming more watchable again after a couple of ho-hum guests such as the Saudi dissident Muhammad al-Masari, when along comes *Daily Mirror* Editor Piers Morgan with a performance so utterly embarrassing that you swore you would never miss another episode again. It was riveting.

Morgan, who appeared on last Friday's show alongside Clive Anderson, turned out to be as funny as a flatworm. The trouble was, he didn't seem to twig that nobody was laughing. At least not laughing with him.

Since tonight Rupert Allason, the MP-novelist

who believes he is the victim of a vendetta by the *Mirror*, joins the *HIGNFY* crew — and since he, too, sometimes overestimates the zippiness of his own wit — the show could be another corker.

"It's a pity, really," says Ian Hislop, "they weren't on the show together."

Two humiliations in a row could be just the spice *HIGNFY* needs as it struggles through a midlife crisis — OK, maybe strolls through, given that it still pulls in nine million viewers — brought on by the departures of Paul Merton and the show's founding producer, Harry Thompson. Now five years old and in its eleventh series, the show has also been winged by the open season declared on smoothchops quizmaster Angus Deayton, who was pilloried for behaving a little too smugly when competing in a recent evening of drama awards. Fortunate-

"A few people have tried to have a go before," says Colin Swash, the show's producer, "and after the first riposte they've scuttled for cover. So full marks to Piers for sticking to his guns."

Yes, give Morgan credit for being memorable.

Teddy Taylor, wittering on humbly about Europe, almost made the so-bad-he's-good category,

but many other guests are just forgettably disappointing — as OJ's publicist Mac Clifford was when he partnered Eddie Izzard a fortnight ago.

PAULA YATES was infamously loud but also infamously unfunny: after her freshly boosted breasts were debated and denounced, she unwisely sought to salvage her self-esteem by calling Hislop "the sperm of the devil". It sank her. For what it's worth, Hislop's advice to potential guests is simply "be yourself".

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SAVINGS

Philip Howard



The Beefiad: a bathepic of non-cooperation (Homer shakes his head)

Sing, Madam Speaker, the wrath of Johnmajor. That accursed anger that brought uncounted anguish on the Eurocrats of Brussels, and hurled down to the Hades of "general reserve" measures to reduce bureaucracy and other such multi-paraphrased protocols dear to the Gods of Eulynpus. Though dangerously Utopian for their Myrmidons of Whitehall and Brussels, who make a meal of nothing but red tape from rosy-fingered dawn until silver-footed moonshine. First they cut the red tape into small pieces, then they wrap the guts around the small pieces as in a beefburger, so that the savoury smell rises up to high Heaven to please the Gods of the Commission. (Note the stock epic filler and the hexameter endings.)

With your Sister Muses, divine Betty, sing from the time of the first quarrel which divided Thomas Major-Bull's son, the lord of Tories, and godlike Santer. For like the Trojan War, the Beef War must have its epic bard, in order that the deeds of its heroes are not forgotten on the eternal spike.

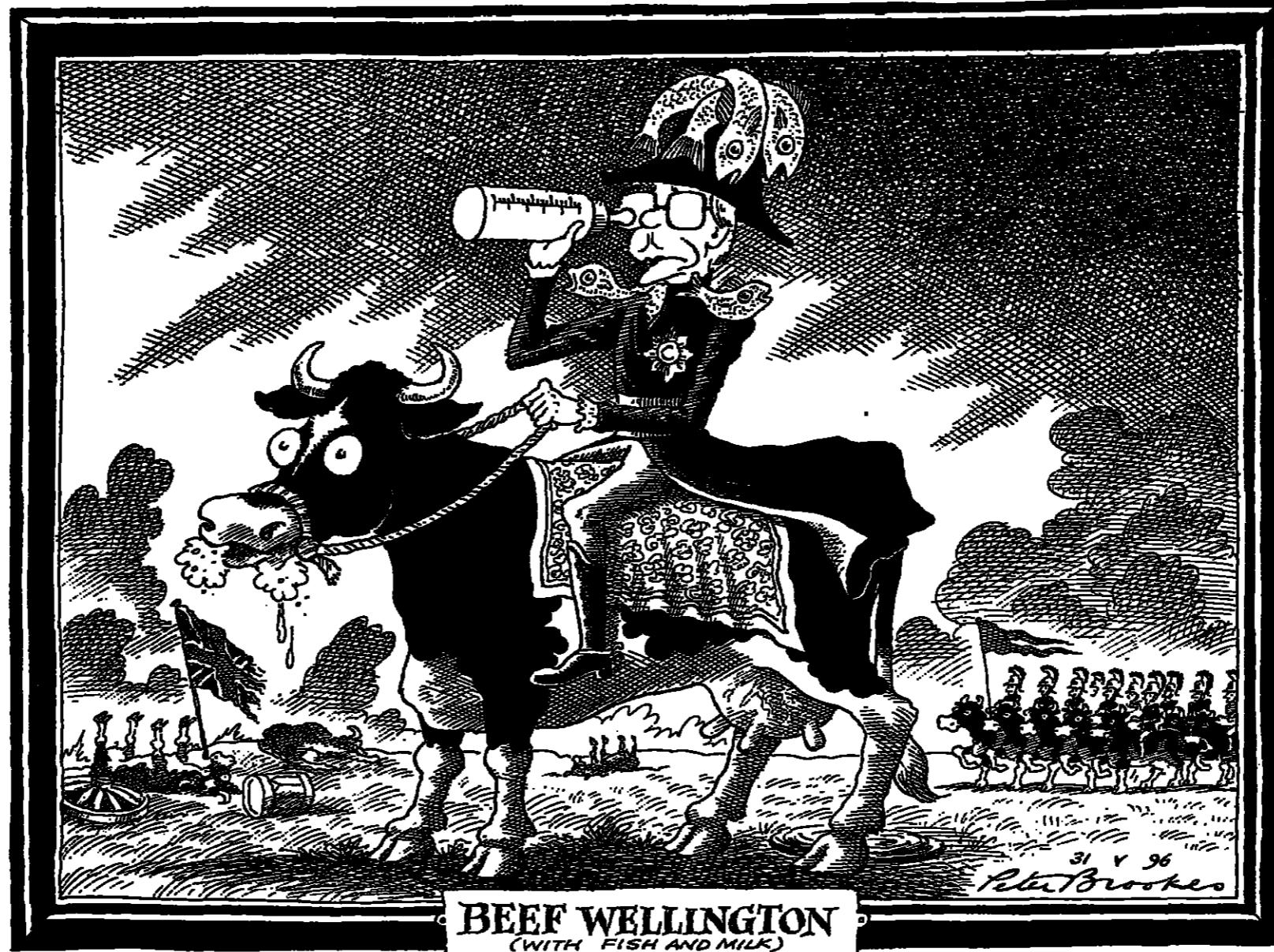
Which of the gods was it who set these two fighting? It was Zeus, the Lord of Eulynpus, in the guise of a bull. For he was who founded EU back at the beginning of time, many generations ago, and the generations of men are as the leaves. For he fell in love with Europa, the Princess of Tyre in the Lebanon. In order to win her (and to conceal his amour from his lady wife Hera) he took the form of a beautiful bull. And he played around Europa so gently that she climbed on his back, foolish virgin. Thereupon he ran off to the sea, and swam away bearing her to Crete, where she gave birth to those stern judges Minos and Rhadamanthus, and, some say, Jacques Delors himself. Hence all those tears shed. Hence all those protocols. Hence the EU.

Bull was the cause of the Beef War. Bull and the seed of bull. For as when a mighty bull, lord of the shambling herds, sees that the Europeans are refusing to honour his EU procreative semen, and takes umbrage, he tosses his shaggy head and looks askance with his red eyes. And the herdsmen and Eurocrats all tremble and hide behind their opt-outs and quota-hoppers. So anger came over banana-footed Johnmajor, lord of the Tories. His heart in his shaggy breast was torn in thought, whether to draw his sharp sword from beside his thigh, break up the Parliament, and kill all the beef bastards. To quell his anger and restrain his heart in a sulk to make them all sorry.

And so he retired to his tent behind the black door of Number Ten. And he summoned his War Cabinet of Malcolm Rifkind, Caledonian guest-advocate to strangers, and Roger Freeman, far the best of the co-ordinators of Britain's non-cooperation strategy. And Johnmajor opened his mouth and spoke winged words to them: "Heroes and dear friends, I am now not inconsiderably totally livid with these foreigners. So I shall declare war on them, just like Lady Thatcher and the Falklands. Until they honour our beef and our bull's semen, our sacred tallow and gelatine, we are officially in a state of total non-cooperation with them. Oh yes. We shall non-cooperate in Brussels, we shall non-cooperate at ministerial meetings and assemblies of officials. We shall never surrender."

Just then came a sacred herald by fax from godlike Jacques Santer. And he spoke winged words: "Cease this foolish hostage-taking, Johnmajor. What is the cause for the bull is sause for the mad cow. We shall cut your fishing-fleet. And what is that about your lethal baby milk? As your sacred bard Samuel Johnson sang: 'Truth, Sir, is a cow, which will yield such people [sceptics] no more milk, and so they have gone to milk the bull.' All Europeans, Britons included, are by pedigree sons and daughters of the bull. If we must declare cruel war that makes widows and orphans, can we not do it over something less communiaire to the seeds of Europe than bull's semen?"

The warriors of all the moos that's fit to print may not seem as heroic as Achilles and Hector. But their bathepic should be told. And it could run to more than 24 books.



A slave state of our time

Would you like a few dozen slaves for Christmas? Well, not Christmas exactly, because the people selling these goods are very down on Christmas and even more so on Christ. Moreover, the Christians very frequently are the slaves, and when they are, they are very likely to be tortured or murdered, and usually both. I should add that the slave-market is filled with men, women and children indiscriminately, and that those taken for slavery are used not only for the normal work of slavery, but for sexual services. Yes, yes, and yes again. I am talking about the horrors of Sudan, which may well at present hold the Blue Riband of savagery. (Christian sufferers are obliged to renounce their Christian names and adopt Muslim ones, but it must be understood that very many Muslims are also suffering at the hands of the savages of Khartoum.)

And when I call them savages, I am not exaggerating, as Abu Adam Abu Bakir Ormer would testify if he were in any state to do so:

He was imprisoned for three-and-a-half months . . . while there he was severely tortured. He was hung from the ceiling by his hands and legs and beaten with plastic ropes and sticks many times each day. He was also forced to lie naked in the scorching sun all day long on the roof of the house. While on the roof he was handcuffed with special handcuffs which tightened with movement, and he was forced by beating to keep rolling over, so that the handcuffs became increasingly tight, cutting off blood to the head. At other times he was tied to a table and his legs and feet were beaten so badly that he was unable to stand; they then beat him to make him keep running, saying it "was good for the circulation".

It is important to understand that such mad savagery is not the behaviour of some crazed loner. We are talking of a state — a terrible one, but one that would have to be recognised as such. Nor does that state lack a religion, and with terrible irony it calls itself Islamic although Muslims by the thousand are destroyed by those who have called themselves Muslims. We know, alas, what evil can do in the name of good, and throughout all recognisable time men (and women) have killed to demonstrate their holiness. But what do you do when you get the news of a troop-train which pauses to kill a considerable number of innocent and peaceable people? These visits

included raiding villages, killing, capturing and torturing civilians, burning homes and crops, looting and pilfering. And I repeat: these are not runamucks getting what they can until the forces of order arrive, they are the forces of order.

Nor does this madness stop or even pause; at least, if it isn't madness it is difficult to say what it is, as this *billet-doux* might show — in the form of a letter (a real one). "In the name of God, the Merciful. Dear Outlaws, Peace be upon you. We ask you to be alert for we are coming to you at Nyamell. Our force is 1,800 soldiers strong. We ask you to prepare yourselves for we are coming to get you at 3 am — so be prepared. You idiots. If you want peace you should surrender before July, at the latest. Commander P.D.F. Hebeid." The next day, casuals arrived at Nyamell.

But that was nothing to what happened next — and would be expected to happen. It was, of course, the selling and buying of human beings, particularly children. The current average price per slave is three cows — with a minimum of two cows. The traders claim that this price is necessary to cover the costs of finding children, abduction (or sometimes negotiating a purchase) and bringing them back. It is estimated by the civil authorities that there are approximately 12,000 children from this area currently enslaved in the North, and that the numbers are growing, for raids are still continuing.

Mind you, there are Good Samaritans (if the words aren't blasphemy), for an Arab trader said (and did) this:

The slave owners are Arabs of the Zako tribe . . . and almost all of them are Muslim extremists. Since we reached a peace agreement with the Dinkas . . . I have brought back more than 300 children. Just a few days ago I brought back 12 children. Today I brought back 28. Some of the parents of these children will not be

able to pay the redemption fee. If the community leaders do not come up with the fee I will not be able to bring back more children. This work of returning slaves is dangerous for me. But I do it because I want the Arabs and the Dinkas to live in peace.

I dare say. And there are many who are working hard to bring them peace, one of them being Baroness Cox, the president of Christian Solidarity International. She has, with a very powerful team, brought to the world's attention the fact that sooner or later — more likely sooner — Sudan will be nothing but a charnel-house, where madness reigns and does not even know that it is mad.

The leaders of many savage places have claimed to be heading an ordered society, even though behind the facade there reigns nothing but anarchy. But in Sudan, conditions are far worse than anarchy. This is not the anarchy of a society that has broken into pieces (would that it were), but the anarchy of one bloodthirsty evil that has climbed to the top and cannot be dislodged.

This is not unique. Algeria has for many years now been in the same situation, and the Algerians are still losing huge numbers to the same dreadful fanatics. The fanatics have killed tens of thousands solely in order to create an Islamic state. As I have repeatedly asked: what kind of a religion can it be when its first action is to murder its own people? (I have also asked rather pertinently why the followers of the religion do not stand up and denounce the murdering leaders.)

In the case of Sudan, I am told that one-and-a-half million people have died in this terrible madness, and that five million have been displaced. In the case of Algeria, no one really knows how many have already died at the hands of the mad fanatics. That sea of blood must

have drowned countless hordes, but imagine tens of thousands being killed — not because the killers want to get even with some real or imagined hated ones, but to bring down the entire Algerian structure so that it can collapse and turn Algeria into a swamp of madness personified.

That is nothing but the plain truth; and it seems the structure that holds up any vestige of sanity in Sudan will hold until — well, I almost said until the mad ones have gone, but I fear that the mad ones will never go, after all, the mad ones in Algeria are still killing and they are still mad.

Madder, perhaps. Baroness Cox's conclusions are very thorough and terrible, and she knows more than anyone in this story. And that story says that what is happening in Sudan is — well, Baroness Cox speaks for herself. Read this, from her conclusions:

The Government's policy towards the people of the South and the Nuba mountains is tantamount to genocide, by means of terror, war, slavery, the mass displacement of the population and the manipulation of aid. In particular, widespread, systematic slavery continues on a large scale in government-controlled areas of Sudan. The raids by government troops and government-backed PDF militiamen against African towns and villages of the South and Nuba mountains are accompanied by atrocities, torture, rape, looting and destruction of buildings and generally killed and/or tortured.

In normal situations of hunger and violence, the world comes to the rescue or at least tries to do so. War, disease, theft — these are endemic, but by now the ways and means for helping to combat them are obvious. But what if that obvious remedy is deliberately refused — what then? For that, exactly, is what is happening in Sudan. Food and drink are available, but they are deliberately denied. Hunger is used as a weapon, and thousands of victims of the Government's genocidal plan rot and die. The UN itself has only limited access, and soon the Government will have its way entirely: millions are forced into migration and the Government will get its ultimate wish: enslavement with forced labour.

And that is the fate of the people who live and are murdered in Sudan: terror; slavery; at the end, genocide. It all began with human rights, but what can we do against savages who literally do not know the meaning of those words?

The alliance rests on shaky foundations, because what the Left likes about Europe is less attractive to the modernisers, including Mr Blair — and vice versa. Mr Cook and most of the Labour Party eventually came to accept British membership of the Community because of the carrot of its social dimensions, in particular the social chapter with its minimum workers' rights. This made the monetarist Maastricht treaty much easier to swallow.

By contrast, the Labour leader is not bothered by the stringent conditions for a single currency, since they might help him in power to keep inflation and spending under control. He is much more worried about whether the electorate can stomach the implied loss of sovereignty. Nor is he particularly sold on the social chapter, which is one of those embarrassing negative factors, like the minimum wage, which the Tories intend to exploit at the general election. The new line on the social chapter, deployed this week in connection with the launch of Labour's policy document *A Business Agenda for Europe*, is that Britain should opt in, but only to stop our European partners from adopting too many crazy expensive, pro-worker policies. Were the social chapter not so crucial to keeping the Left and the unions happy, the policy might have been binned.

Labour's Euro-enthusiasts and sceptics have little in common except the desire not to stick their necks out on any given European controversy. That unity may not be sustained for long, based as it is on the politics of the lowest common denominator. But it works for now — and for Mr Blair and Mr Cook, that is all that counts.

Labour's loyalty bonus

Sarah Baxter on Robin Cook, the wily Euro-sceptic

It is only a beef war, not a shooting war. The British forces on the Rhine have not yet been mobilised, to my knowledge, against the Germans. Usually, the Government briefs the Opposition only when national security is at stake or our servicemen are deployed abroad. The last time Robin Cook met a Conservative Foreign Secretary for formal talks was when Douglas Hurd was in the job and the Bosnian ceasefire was close to agreement. Nevertheless, Malcolm Rifkind has written to Mr Cook telling him that he would be delighted to keep the Opposition fully informed.

Mr Rifkind and Mr Cook were debating society rivals at school and at Edinburgh University, but no doubt the old sparring partners would sagely agree that the national interest must come before party advantage. The Foreign Secretary is not going to consult Mr Cook about precisely what he intends to veto at the Council of Ministers, as Labour has demanded, but he and his shadow will jaw-jaw about the Euro-war. Thus Mr Rifkind hopes to demonstrate that the Government's stance on beef is noble and high-minded, rather than a feeble response to pressure from Tory Euro-sceptics. For its part, Labour has even more to gain. By adopting a bipartisan position, Mr Cook hopes to neutralise the issue and stop the Tories' jingoism from translating into votes.

The Times's MORI poll suggests that Labour's tactic is working. Beef does not seem to be a swing issue on the doorsteps. Mr Cook will regard that as a personal victory. But the policy of non-cooperation with the EU has an added bonus for him. For years, the Shadow Foreign Secretary has been a repressed Euro-sceptic, antagonised by the prospect of a "bankers' Europe" and the deflationary conditions of the Maastricht treaty. At last, he has been able to break free of his shackles and tell the EU to get stuffed — if only with our beef.

Tony Blair's pro-European friends feel understandably betrayed. Only last year the Labour leader's shiny new version of Clause Four of the party constitution was unveiled. It not only dumped nationalisation, but enshrined for the first time "a commitment to cooperate in European institutions". This was supposed to be a moment of sweet victory, with Labour's Euro-enthusiasts triumphing decisively over the party's sceptics. It is certainly galling for devoted federalists to watch Mr Blair renege so soon on his own constitution. But there is broad agreement in the party about beef and related Euro-matters that has rarely been achieved since Britain entered the Common Market.

It would be a mistake to believe that Labour's historic split has disappeared. Mr Blair is close to Roy Jenkins, as Michael Cockerell's recent television profile of the former SDP leader revealed. It was Mr Jenkins and his band of Labour rebels who helped Ted Heath to take the country into the EEC in 1972 (to the fury of a young hot-head, soon to be a backbencher and now the Shadow Foreign Secretary). Later, support for Britain's membership was a key reason for the breaking away of the SDP. During the 1980s, converting Labour into a pro-European voters, safe for defectors and deserting voters, became one of the chief goals of modernisers like Mr Blair.

Despite their very different views on Europe, Mr Blair and Mr Cook have been able to agree. The Left, for whom Mr Cook is the spiritual leader, is usually quick to criticise Mr Blair for backing the Tories in me-too fashion. But since the Left also has strong Euro-sceptic tendencies, there is a coincidence of interests here. As for the modernisers, they have temporarily abandoned Euro-philia in order to counter the image fostered by the Left during the wilderness years that Labour can always be counted on to side unpatriotically with the enemy. So everyone can now happily wage war.

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Pegged hopes

VICTORY for Binyamin Netanyahu in the Israeli elections will add a syrupy dollop of showbusiness to Middle Eastern politics.

"Bibi the Jaw", as Netanyahu is sometimes known, takes his personal image very seriously indeed. He is possessed of immaculate suits, steely gaze, and a polished quote for every occasion.

Working as Israel's chief spokesman to the foreign press during the Gulf War, Netanyahu would always carry two clothes pegs in his pockets. When the time came to appear on television, he would ensure first that he was sitting on the tail of his jacket, so that his thick neck protruded bullishly from his suit.

Then he would produce the clothes pegs and fasten the front corners of his jacket to the seat so as to make himself look less stocky. So absurd did one ITN crew find Netanyahu's rituals that they spent the duration of the interview sobbing as they choked back their laughter. Netanyahu, a prime example of the excessively vain womanising politician, was not amused.

"It was funny at the time," said

one of the ITN crew yesterday. "But really we should have realised after all that preening he was prime ministerial material."

In organising a surprise party for the comic and farceur Ray Cooney, to celebrate his 64th birthday yesterday and half a century in showbusiness, somebody missed a trick. "There's going to be a surprise party for me," he told me. "Somebody forgot and said: 'See you on Thursday.' But don't worry, I shall

Netanyahu, Israel's peacock

DIARY

make sure I keep my eyebrows up. A very useful tip.

Party peace

AFTER months of dithering, Oxford University's Bullingdon Club has called off its reunion ball because of lack of interest. To recap, the Bullingdon, which represents Oxford's Krug-swilling tendency, had fallen into foreign hands. The original plan was to hold a £120-a-head ball at the Natural History Museum, inviting all old members, from Lord Rothschild to David Guppy.

The museum, however, quickly decided against submitting their dinosaur exhibits to the inevitable drunken caveman impressions. So the Bullingdon quietly moved its ball to the Imperial War Museum. Now, Clifford Potter, the American graduate in charge of the club,

has sent out letters returning the few deposit cheques he has received, citing lack of interest and shortage of contact addresses as his main obstacles. Potter, however, is no quitter. He is planning a ball for next summer which will be "so well remembered that it becomes pass before anyone contemplates another Buller reunion".

Congratulations to Melanie McGrath, 32, who picked up the £5,000 John Llewellyn Rhys Prize yesterday for her first novel *Motel Nirvana*, a tale of her 13,000-mile solo journey around the American desert. The money should come in handy. "I flew in this morning from Las Vegas," she said, "where I blew \$300 last night at the casino. I won't be gambling this away."

Hot spot

TOP OF any list of alternative holiday ideas should be Mihamia, a town in western Japan littered with nuclear power stations. Local officials, assigned the fiendish task of promoting their few assets, have quite understandably resorted to desperate measures.

They sent a batch of posters featuring the town's "crystal beach" to travel agents throughout Japan. Anyone familiar with Mihamia, however, would have noticed that something was missing. The tour-

ist board had been busy with the airbrush. Gone were the expressionist lines of the ghoulish nuclear power plant. In their place were scenes of lush greenery, fields and forest. Confronted, the Mihamians proved difficult to argue with. "We merely deleted what was unsuitable for a photograph whose aim is to show off beautiful scenery," explained an official.

Hay ho!

TOMORROW night sees another stage in the return to normal life of Salman Rushdie. He will be ap-

pearing at the Sunday Times Hay Literary Festival. Special Branch have done their nosing around, but Hay-on-Wye, fortunately, has less of the soul about it than most places.

He will be taking part in a debate on the motion "Europe should resist the culture of America", and will be arguing alongside the *New Yorker* writers Sidney Blumenthal and Adam Gopnik — opposing the motion.

The proposers come from a *Sunday Times* team, led by the journalist Bryan Appleyard and Oxford's Professor of Modern History, Norman Stone.

Rushdie's fondness for American culture was apparently stoked during the nervous months after the Iranians first called down their fatwa, when he used to stay up late watching American talk shows on satellite television.



LIKUD'S OPPORTUNITY

Israelis still want peace, but with security

In defiance of expectations, Americans and exit polls, it appears that Binyamin Netanyahu has emerged, by a tiny majority, as the Prime Minister of Israel. If so, he faces a divided and polarised society which is reflected in a Knesset considerably more fragmented than that which sat previously.

A new electoral system designed to strengthen the Prime Minister and weaken the smaller parties has, perhaps predictably, failed to deliver. Mr Netanyahu can form a government, but it will of necessity be a patchwork coalition of his own Likud block combined with assorted religious and immigrant parties. While this blurs his personal mandate, it does not take it away.

Security concerns have completely dominated this contest and explain why Mr Netanyahu ultimately defeated the vastly more experienced Shimon Peres. This overwhelming concentration has been a surprise to many observers. The national economy which has performed spectacularly well over the past three years — in large part because of the easing of Israel's international isolation — did not register with many voters.

The assumption of many outside the country that peace must mean progress, and therefore benefit Labour, was badly flawed. It ignored the collective experience of the Jewish people for whom peace at any price has a very low premium. It also disregarded the reality that for many the period since the Oslo accords has seen more, not less, violence. In under three years 217 Israeli citizens have died and some 1,000 been wounded in terrorist attacks. Allowing for population size, this would represent nearly 3,000 killed and 14,000 maimed in Britain — the whole Ulster experience over a 30-month

timetable. Were that to have happened here, Britons would make security the major election issue too.

Security, however, is a broader matter than mere overt force. This is what Mr Netanyahu has to ponder as he looks at the message his countrymen have sent him. The Likud leadership was careful to avoid the wholesale assault on the Oslo inheritance urged by some in its wings such as Ariel Sharon. It has fully embraced reconciliation with Jordan, whose leadership in turn was less than strikingly for Peres in the campaign. While it has reserved the right to pursue terrorist suspects inside the area which is now the Palestinian National Authority, it has fallen short of an absolute pledge to do so. Hostility to Mr Arafat has been muted, at least overtly.

While Likud is staunchly opposed to a

Palestinian state, this does not preclude movement on both the political and economic fronts which allows for increased autonomy short of statehood. Even if Labour had won, it is doubtful that complete national status would or could have been granted in the space of one parliamentary term. In short, predictions that peace prospects are dead may be highly premature. The process may advance at a different pace, choose new priorities, and give greater emphasis to the personal security of Israeli citizens, but that represents change rather than closure.

Mr Netanyahu has had very limited experience in government. He has built his career mainly on his exceptional presentation skills. If he establishes himself as Israel's Prime Minister, he will have to lead his country into unknown territory. He will have a mandate to negotiate from strength. He should use it.

PRIMARY LESSONS

Blunkett's theory is excellent; the practice would be harder

Parents agonise far more about the choice of a secondary than a primary school. Yet give a school a child to the age of 11, and it can forge the likely contours of the rest of the pupil's life. If the basic skills of reading, writing and maths are not instilled early, they are often never mastered at all. Unable to cope with the rigours of secondary school, pupils with low literacy levels tend to lose heart, play truant and, all too often, turn to crime. The standard of teaching in primary schools therefore casts ripples that penetrate far into society.

David Blunkett, Shadow Education Secretary, seems to appreciate this. In a robust speech to the National Association of Head Teachers' conference yesterday, he produced some sensible thinking about how to raise standards for primary school children. Like Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, he believes that the progressive revolution in teaching has gone too far, and it is time for a return to the traditional methods that our continental competitors never thought of abandoning.

Thus, reading should mainly be taught by sounding out letters (the method known as phonics). The principles of mathematics should be taught to classes as a whole, not left for children to "discover". Pupils should be grouped by ability; discipline should be asserted; at least half an hour's homework a night should be given to all children from the age of seven.

Most parents would consider these proposals to be no more than common sense. But many teachers, led astray by decades of dogma at teacher training college and beyond, still see them as contentious. The impact of ineffective teaching methods has been not just on children. The whole country has suffered: in today's World Economic Forum rankings, Britain comes only 35th out of 48 countries for an education system

which meets the needs of a competitive economy. Should he reach office, Mr Blunkett will find himself subject to all the frustrations that have beset countless Tory Education Secretaries and Mr Woodhead himself. Knowledge of what constitutes good teaching practice is one thing; persuading teachers to adopt it is another.

League tables have been a spur, although they have come slowly to primary schools. Mr Blunkett proposes to go further than current plans. He wants all children tested at five, and then assessed annually against the level that they ought to be achieving. This would give parents added ammunition against teachers or schools that they believe to be allowing their children to coast or fall behind. Pupils whose ability diverges some way from the average, whether above or below it, would be given individual education plans to ensure that they get special help. This is currently all too hard to achieve for able children in the state system. And schools themselves would have to set targets for improvement each year. By the end of two Labour terms, Mr Blunkett's ambition is that all primary school leavers without special needs should have a reading age of at least 11.

Mr Blunkett recognises that at the core of the problem is teacher training. The biggest educational scandal of this Government is that it has allowed teacher training colleges, for the past 17 years, to continue to turn out teachers who have not been taught how to teach. But even if Mr Blunkett improves teacher training, the vast mass of practitioners will still be of the old persuasion. He is right to acknowledge that results would come only slowly. He may be surprised, even then, to find how difficult it is to transform a prevailing philosophy that is so deeply embedded in the educational establishment.

TO THE MANOR PAWNED

Empty titles should go to people with full wallets

The upper classes may no longer have the upper hand but several of them have discovered nice little earners. When the last silver cow creamer has been pawned and the ormolu clock auctioned, any earl who is down to his last sovereign and any marquess who finds himself in Queer Street can now sell titles to keep their seats from crumbling.

Proper peerages may not be sold by their owners, but lordships of the manor may be offered on the open market as freely as crockery at a car-boot sale. Lordships of the manor convey no right to a seat in the House of Lords let alone *Le Caprice*, nor indeed to style oneself a peer. These cracked and dusty baubles, hangovers from a feudal age, bestow little more than rights to graze or hold a market on land long built over. There is the chance for those hungry for honour to style themselves John Snooks, Lord of Crinkly Bottom; but to hold such a title is to be no more elevated than Count Basey, Duke Ellington or a Baron Knight.

Both Bristol and Spencer have put manorial titles up for auction and seen them excite those anxious to acquire a whiff of gentility. Our great houses are unbundling their inheritance in the manner of an asset stripper towards a bloated conglomerate. But it is perhaps reassuring in this age that some moneyed people still feel the need to swathe themselves, if not in ermine, then in a patch of almost-aristocratic purple.

The title of Lord of the Manor developed in medieval times to mark the man who

exercised *droit de seigneur* over a hamlet from the comfort of his bijou moat and bailey home. Over time, however, the *seigneur* has lost most of his *droits*. In 1660 Lords of the Manor were deprived of their rights of wardship; this can be seen as one of the first occasions when meddling legislators strangled a flourishing trade with regulation — in this case the market in orphans and foundlings. Manorial titles still empowered their holders with the right to charge a nominal rent of their vassals until 1922, when some fifty years after serfdom went in Tsarist Russia, feudalism was abolished in England. Happily for traditionalists, it survives in Scotland along with much else that is mourned elsewhere such as quarter-gill measures in out-of-the-way pubs and top quality tap water to dilute them.

The market in manorial titles only really took off after the Second World War, following the decline of the flourishing baronial *bourse* of Lloyd George and Baldwin. When seats in the Upper House could less easily be sold under the counter, collectors moved to lesser fare. Most manorial titles are now acquired by the newly rich, incensing some of the less newly rich who see standards declining. But it was ever thus. In 1439 and 1462 laws were passed to prevent the sale of manorial titles to new money types such as the Fitzalan-Howards. The ultim shudder, but better by far that the rising bourgeois acquire status than a taste for revolution.

NATIONALISM AND THE VIABILITY OF DEVOLUTION IN BRITAIN

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

From Mr John Papworth

Sir, Those who, like Matthew Parris (articles, May 20, 27; letters May 29), are worried about the economic viability of small nations resulting from devolution, as well as those who assume that greater integration in Europe is the high road to economic progress, might do worse than reflect on figures issued by *The Economist* which indicate that 25 of the top 35 of the richest nations measured in terms of GDP have populations of less than ten million.

They may also care to ponder why it is that among the poorest of the poor are the two giants, India and China. Even the giant US ranks lower than any of the Scandinavians, despite the fact that its population is almost 50 times greater than that of Norway.

With respect,

JOHN PAPWORTH (Editor,
Fourth World Review,
24 Abercorn Place, NW8.
May 28)

From the President of the Scottish National Party

Sir, Is not Matthew Parris, in denouncing the "parochialism" of Scottish nationalism, being supremely parochial himself when he denies the will of the Scots to establish more fulfilling international relations with our European partners? Victoria's empire is dead, Mr Parris, the marriage has soured and England is turning into a small-minded spent force in Europe in front of our eyes.

Why can't the English just accept that the current components of the UK could wield much greater collective force in Europe with two, three or even four seats in the Council of Ministers instead of only one?

I share Mr Parris's belief that a United States of Europe is not on the cards; but, having made the transition from Westminster to Europe some 21 years ago, I am equally convinced that Britain's carpentry Euro-scepticism is a much more damaging, destructive and diminishing force than the par-

ish-pump parochialism he may find at Scottish Question Time in the Commons (a product of our Westminster system).

If Mr Parris doubts this, let him come with me to Strasbourg, Brussels or Luxembourg to witness the full horror of British parochialism in action and the full glory of positive small nations like Ireland, Belgium, Finland, The Netherlands, Austria and Luxembourg.

Yours sincerely,
WINIFRED M. EWING
(President, Scottish National Party),
European Parliament,
Strasbourg.

From Mr Donald Winterbottom

Sir, Matthew Parris's criticism of small nations in Europe is antediluvian.

"Parochial" need no longer have negative connotations. Today, with global travel and instant communications, life within a parish need never feel stifling, and the reintroduction of strong parishes into our cities is what our society needs most.

Nor is it the small nations of Europe which are "uncivilising, diminishing, childish" — the European countries that come top in quality-of-life surveys are always the small ones, such as Denmark and Switzerland, and some of the soaring achievements of European civilisation, such as the works of Leonardo da Vinci and Bach, arose from the modest city states within Italy and Germany. It was only when these principalities were united, often by force, that we had world wars and global forms of economic collapse.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD WINTERTON,
Wardrobe House Cottage,
Nr Princes Risborough,
Buckinghamshire.

From Mr A. G. Luscombe

Sir, Matthew Parris is right to fear the possible rise of English nationalism as a result of political devolution in the UK.

Yours faithfully,
W. M. BALLANTINE,
47 The Quarryknowes,
Dean Road, Bonny, West Lothian.
May 28

From Mr William M. Ballantine

Sir, More power to the elbow of Matthew Parris. People down south must wake up to the implications for them of Labour's devolution plans; our whole British heritage is at stake.

Yours faithfully,
W. M. BALLANTINE,
47 The Quarryknowes,
Dean Road, Bonny, West Lothian.
May 28

Investment in Burma

From Mr Nicholas Mellor

Sir, Whilst I endorse your leader of May 27, urging people to shut halves in Burma in order not to provide foreign exchange for the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) and tacitly endorse the oppressive regime, such action is not

Revenue from British tourists pales in comparison with the growing investment in Burma by some of its neighbouring countries. In 1994 over \$500 million was received from Singapore and Thailand.

Should human rights in Burma not be higher on our agenda in relations with members of ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) which have investment programmes in the country?

Currently there is a major project to build a pipeline taking natural gas from the Yadana natural gas field in the Andaman Sea overland across

The English are not nationalists per se, in their relationship with the home nations as they are, say, towards Brussels or as the Scots are towards them. They are happy enough with a government containing members of all the home nations, and including a non-English Prime Minister, while all remain under one common loyalty. If, however, the Scots and Welsh wish to have a divided loyalty then the English may well become as narrowly nationalistic as they are and then the United Kingdom could disintegrate.

Yours,
A. G. LUSCOMBE,
24 Academy Court,
Castle Street, Irvine, Ayrshire.
May 28

From Mr Evan Davies

Sir, How heartening to read Matthew Parris's criticism of the nationalism of small nations, masquerading as European regionalism. English nationalism, when it finds its full force in the context of European regionalism and of the devolution of power to Scotland and Wales, will in my view be one of the nasties in Europe.

The nationalism of big nations has been so much more dangerous than that of small ones. The history of our century shows the horrors that big-nationalism can bring.

Perhaps a future of small nations, whatever its unpleasantness, would be preferable.

Yours faithfully,
EVAN DAVIES,
118 Plympton Road,
Penarth, South Glamorgan.

From Mr I. McBain

Sir, The idea that the Great Wall of China can be seen from the Moon is, as I understand it, as probable as someone in London being able to see a school ruler held aloft in Newcastle.

Yours faithfully,
IAN MCBAIN,
76 Kingston Road, Poole, Dorset.
May 23

Moon myths and the Great Wall

From Professor Alec Eden

Sir, We are undoubtedly amused by Gaza's refusal to be impressed "when told that all man's work on Earth, it alone [the Great Wall of China] could be seen from the Moon" (leading article, May 23). But what is the basis for this popular belief or its more modest, but less precise, version of the wall being "visible from space"?

At the end of the 1980s I was closely concerned with the preparation for ultrasound measurements of blood flow in the brains of orbiting astronauts in the space shuttle *Discovery* (twice) and *Atlantis*. In my conversations with many crew members upon their return, I could not find one who claimed to have viewed the world's most distinctive monument from a height of some 180 miles, although several had specifically attempted to do so. The chances of seeing it from the Moon — at an altitude of over 1,300 times greater — would appear to be remote. Is this an example of a modern myth?

Yours faithfully,

ALEC EDEN,
The Thatched House,
Mead Road, Torquay, Devon.
May 23

TORIES AND CHRISTIANITY

From the Bishop of Willesden

Sir, Your Diary of May 21 quotes me as saying: "Britain needs Christianity a hundred times more than it needs Conservatism." These words, although I do not disagree with them, are not mine. They come from an article in *The Church of England News* paper by Harry Greenway, MP, the same man who, in the *Ealing Gazette*, has claimed that "Jesus was certainly a Conservative".

If Jesus had lived today he would certainly not have been a Conservative. He would have pointed out what was wrong in all the political parties and in the Church as well. But he would still have loved us, in spite of our self-interest.

Yours sincerely,
GRAHAM WILLESDEN,
173 Willesden Lane, NW6.
May 24

Road rage

From Mr John White

Sir, I frequently experience road rage (letters, May 25), directed at whoever conceived this epithet for criminality and those who perpetuate its use.

Perhaps they subconsciously recognise that by condoning and contributing to excessive and increasing dependence on the car they create a climate in which violence finds a bogus excuse.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN WHITE,
Highfield, 14 Lancaster Avenue,
Hadley Wood, Hertfordshire.
May 29

Please hold . . .

From Mr Nigel Rodgers

Sir, Mr John du Bois (letter, May 22; see also letters, May 13, 16) is just one among millions who object to being forced to listen to piped music while waiting on the telephone. What is obviously needed is a device which allows people to choose the sort of music (if any) they want on the line by pressing, say, star for silence, one for Mozart, two for Madama, three for Mantovani — and so on.

There are reports locally of dead frogs in some ponds, but other ponds have had a good year. Friends high in Somerset saw lots of frogspawn amid ice and snow earlier this year, long before mine came, so it doesn't seem that temperature is a factor either.

Yours sincerely,

M. J. MITCHELL,

11 Chestnut Terrace, Charlton Kings,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
May 28

Some sunny day

From Mr Anthony Martin

Sir, I suspect there will be a renaissance of Vera Lynn songs to bolster our morale on the BSE battlefield. Might I suggest that a rendering of "Well meat again" would provide a significant boost both to our hopes and our expectations.

OBITUARIES

JEREMY SINDEN

JEREMY SINDEN, actor, died on May 29 from cancer aged 45. He was born on June 14, 1950.

JEREMY SINDEN specialised in playing eccentric military men and overgrown public schoolboys. They were the sort of Wodehouseian buffoons which in clumsy hands might have lapsed into caricature.

His last incarnation, a role which he was born to play, was as Toad of Toad Hall, that motoring terror of the English countryside. Thousands of the regrettors flocked to see Alan Bennett's adaptation of *Wind in the Willows* at the Old Vic, and in particular Sinden's masterful Toad, resplendently dressed in striped blazer and Frank Muir-style bow-tie. *The Times* reviewer described Sinden as "a nice smug Toad, who wears everything down to his convict's arrows like a model on a Paris catwalk".

Sinden was not just a children's actor. Apart from Toad, he was perfectly cast as Goring in Wilde's *The Ideal Husband* and as Major Swindon in Shaw's *The Devil's Disciple*. His theatre experience ranged from Shakespeare to West End farce. There was also a good deal of television work. If there was a theme to his work, it lay in his talent for comedy. He had the impressively large physique, and open, mobile features which naturally lend themselves to farce.

Sinden was a popular man in the business. He had a delightful, unstuffy sense of humour. In one long run of *Follow the Star* at Chichester, he had been suffering from a cold, and had smothered himself with Vick's Vapourub. He was highly amused to notice that the unfortunate dancers on stage, who followed in his wake, had tears streaming down their faces. Henceforth he became known backstage as "Old Vick".

Jeremy Sinden came from distinguished acting stock. He was the son of Donald Sinden, who had made his own reputation as an actor in light-hearted film roles in the 1950s.

Jeremy grew up feeling that he had to share his father like a piece of "public property" with the rest of the world. He and his brother Marc learnt the necessity of being "on duty", and well-behaved on family outings. Initially Jeremy had no ambition to follow his glamorous parent into acting. It was only later in childhood, after watching Anthony Quayle in *The Guns of Navarone*, that he realised that a leading man did not have to look particularly handsome, and that he therefore stood a chance in the profession himself.



The English master at Lancing, where he went to school, hardly helped. He told Sinden that he could be in the school play because "your father's an actor". Sinden's school chums understandably found this attitude objectionable, and determined to put the new boy in his place. To compound their disapproval, Donald Sinden advised against either of his sons following him into such a precarious profession as acting: university and then, if they must, a career in stage management, but not acting.

Almost inevitably, therefore, Jeremy Sinden left school for London and for the dissolute lifestyle of a young bohemian actor. He lacked the necessary narcissism to become a juvenile lead: "You have to love yourself more than most people do, and I never have," he said. But he proved to be a solid character actor with a nice sense of timing, and the ability to learn fast.

Because of his rather stocky build and patrician vowel sounds he tended to be typecast as an officer and a gentleman or a starch-ridden Englishman. To an extent he was not really acting in these parts. Sinden loved everything about English country life.

He drank Pimm's in the summer and had played croquet, the latter obsessively, since his earliest years.

He came up the traditional route through repertory theatre and two seasons with the RSC at Stratford where he worked as an assistant stage manager, and understudied 45 parts. In 1972 he made his West End debut as Private Broughton in *Journey's End*. He then made the unusual step of going back to school for some formal training on a three-year course at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. He felt this was necessary in order to iron out deficiencies in his technique.

After Lamda, Sinden appeared in four plays at the Chichester Festival.

By the late 1970s he had landed the part of Anthony Mortimer in *Crossroads*,

which had a huge following. But fame did not bring him much happiness. He described himself as a "lost soul" in his late twenties, deeply depressed by the break-up of a relationship with a girlfriend.

All that changed in 1978 when Sinden met Delia Lindsay, who was acting in the same play, *Lady Harry*, at the Savoy Theatre. He was 29, she 34.

Sinden was not really a film actor, but he played the president of the Gilbert and Sullivan society in *Charots of Fire* (1981), and starred in John Schlesinger's *Madame Sousatzka* (1989). In 1989 he and his wife performed *An Ideal Husband* with their own touring company, and in 1994 he played Major Swindon in Shaw's *The Devil's Disciple* at the Royal National Theatre.

His real triumph was his final part as Toad in *Wind in the Willows*, a role which he took on in the autumn of last year at the Old Vic. Sadly he discovered soon afterwards, in November, that he had cancer. But in the best show-must-go-on fashion, he continued as Toad until this spring.

Sinden was an inveterate letter-writer to *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph*. His advice to young actors, depressed by hostile reviewers, was to ignore them. Of one particularly waspish notice, he wrote: "While the critic caused me a somewhat uneasy breakfast, I contented myself with the knowledge that I had given him a perfectly pharsh evening."

Jeremy Sinden is survived by his wife, and their two daughters.

PETER POOL

PETER POOL, solicitor and Cornish historian, died of cancer of the pancreas on May 15 aged 63. He was born on March 16, 1933.

A BARD of the Gorsedd of Cornwall for forty years, Peter Pool, who took Gwaw Galva as his bardic name, was a master of his county's ancient Breton tongue. A keen exponent of unified Cornish, he devoted himself to its revival. He was a member of Agam Tavas (Our Tongue) and the founder and first secretary of the Cornish Language Board.

He took a passionate part in the controversy which sur-

faced in recent years about alternative forms of the language, writing in *The Second Death of Cornish*, his recent booklet: "I appealed to all sections of the revival movement to work out some form of compromise and save our cause from ruin; my reward was to be lampooned as a dinosaur. The time has come for this dinosaur to roar."

Pool was also a scholar of the history and archaeology of Cornwall. He wrote numerous articles and pamphlets on local historical and antiquarian topics and was twice awarded the Henwood Medal of the Royal Institute of Corn-

wall for his contribution to journals. His books include a *History of the Town and Borough of Penzance* published in 1974 and a 1988 biography of William Borlase.

Peter Aubrey Seymour Pool was born in Penzance. His father ran a family engineering business at Trebetherick, and Peter was educated locally at St Erth's School before going on to Keble College, Oxford, where he studied for a degree in Law.

It was while he was practising as a solicitor in London that he first began to take a serious interest in the ancient language of his county. He began to attend weekly lessons with the second Grand Bard of the Cornish Gorsedd. A dedicated student, he soon went on to himself to teach Cornish in London, and based his book *Cornish for Beginners* around his experience.

In the 1950s Pool returned to Cornwall, as he had always wished to do, and set up his own firm of solicitors. However, he still found time to pursue his scholarly pursuits. He published a pamphlet, *The Typology of the Penhelig Manuscript*, which dealt with a document written in the 16th century by the Head Balliff of the Arundells of Laherne. Pool had come across this manuscript quite by chance under the bed of a butcher in St Buryan.

After moving to Zennor in 1965 he involved himself in the work of the peasant poet Henry Quick, and also edited the diary of the Zennor farmer James Stevens.

He played an active part in local life. He was the local secretary of the Council for the Protection of Rural England and as such played a vital role in the preservation of Penwith from Carnelio to Chapel Carn Brea. He was a member of the Penzance Old Cornwall Society, acting as its president five times. He was also a member of the Naturalist Trust and an active member of Old Provencal in which he was taught by Rhoda Sutherland. After taking a first in Schools in 1955 he was talent-spotted by Sir Maurice Bowra for Wadham, where he remained as lecturer and then fellow and tutor until 1979. In 1961 he married Valerie Boileau, beginning a singularly happy partnership of 35 years.

He leaves a widow Audrey, who is also a Cornish Bard.

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THE TIMES TODAY

FRIDAY MAY 31 1996

NEWS

Israeli poll threatens peace process

■ Israel's election remained on a knife-edge last night with Binyamin Netanyahu, the right-wing challenger, ready to cause a dramatic upset if votes of more than 100,000 serving Israeli soldiers confirm his slender lead over Shimon Peres, the incumbent Labour Prime Minister.

As projections of Mr Peres's slender overnight lead were reversed in favour of Mr Netanyahu, the future of the Middle East peace process hung in the balance. Pages 1, 14

Vogue attacked over 'skeletal' models

■ The Omega watch company has withdrawn advertisements from *Vogue* magazine in protest at the use of "distasteful" pictures of a "skeletal" model in its June edition which it claimed could exert a harmful influence on young and impressionable readers. Page 1

Blair's salvation

Peter Thomson, an Australian priest who is Tony Blair's spiritual mentor, has flown halfway round the world from his cattle ranch to be by the Labour leader's side in the run-up to the general election. Page 1

Agonising wait

Parents waited for up to five hours to hear whether their children had survived the massacre at Dunblane Primary School the inquiry heard. Page 1, 4

Fish fightback

Britain has delivered a forthright rejection of European Union proposals to slash the national fishing fleet and ministers said they would not comply with the proposed 40 per cent cut. Page 2

Thornton freed

Sara Thornton was convicted of the manslaughter of her drunken husband and, after walking free from court, said she had been fairly punished. Page 3

Dental inquiry

A doctor who gave anaesthetic to a schoolgirl who died in the dentist's chair told an inquest that one of his machines was broken during the operation. Page 3

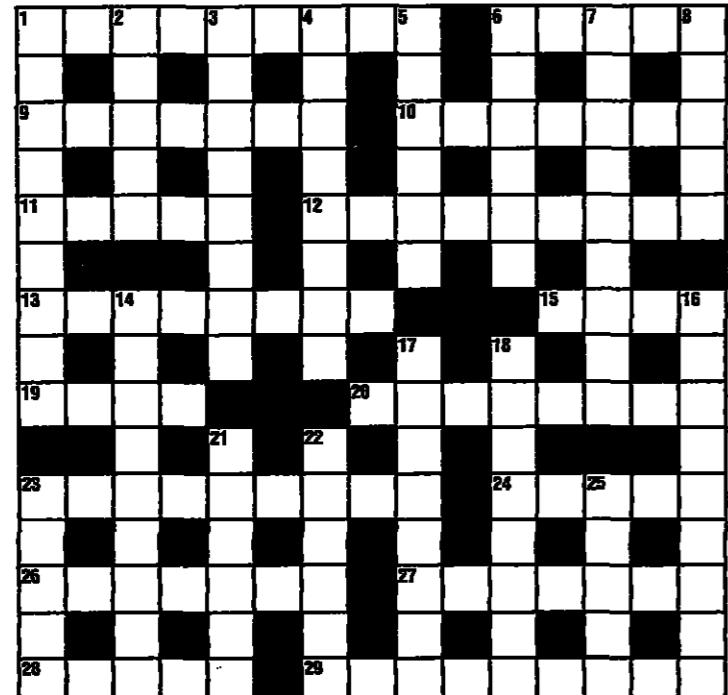
Marquess to leave

The Marquess of Bristol has sold off ancient titles and plans to leave the family seat at Ickworth in Suffolk, and build a new life in the Bahamas. Page 5

Bulldozers fill in the 'passion pits'

■ Drive-in movie theatres, a beacon of Americana since the 1940s and scene of countless first kisses, are on the brink of extinction. Even in California's San Fernando Valley, once the drive-in capital of the United States, only one remains and in Fresno the last of its many "passion pits" is to be bulldozed. Page 13

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,182



ACROSS

- 1 Historian brings wicked king back to us (9).
- 6 Engineers almost broke puzzle (5).
- 9 Bang out when there's disorder? It may (7).
- 10 Operating as a policeman is (2,5).
- 11 Rank actors by voice (5).
- 12 I wondered vaguely what might be on tonight (9).
- 13 Road undulates round river channels (8).
- 15 Be wholly against a cask remaining unfinished (4).
- 19 Collar - put on one from another suit (4).
- 20 Covered ends of dungaree, having unravelled (8).
- 23 To find fault, here comes the craftsman (9).
- 24 Some held King George to be mad (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,181

ACUMEN OUTREACH
O U U P E P A
CONSUMME OVERLIN
L I B N E E S
MARCHESA PROSIT
B I R N I S A
A A N T E D ATE K C
WHEN E S A K I C K
OT U SHAKEN R
H C R U E O A
LEFWAY TESTIURE
D T N C T H W
CREDIT APOLOGIA
U R U S C L S
PLAYMATE KEENER

Times Two Crossword, page 44



After one of the coldest Mays on record, children take advantage of finer weather to play in the Trafalgar Square fountains yesterday

BUSINESS

Economy: The British economy will grow by only 2 per cent this year but is set fair for healthy growth and low inflation. Page 23

Midland: Directors at the parent company of Midland Bank look set to back down over their controversial £16 million incentive scheme after intense pressure from shareholders. Page 23

Inside: A former executive of Bankers Trust responsible for ensuring that the bank's employees did not break the law has been charged with insider dealing. Page 23

Markets: The FTSE 100 index fell 29 points to close at 3746.7. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 85.4 to 85.7 after a rise from \$1.5189 to \$1.5342 and from DM2,3472 to DM2,3507. Page 26

Selling: Samantha Brewster's bid to sail solo around the world is facing an unexpected obstacle in Chay Blyth, who wants his boat back. Page 44

Tennis: The straight-sets win by Michael Stich over Greg Rusedski suggests he could challenge for the French Open title. Page 44

Football: The Football League agreed a £5.25 million three-year sponsorship with the Nationwide Building Society to add to a £12.5-million, five-year television deal. Page 44

Cricket: The umpires had to intervene when David Capel banished his bat Dermot Reeve and Keith Piper during the match between Northamptonshire and Warwickshire. Page 40

Quot: The new release from Blue Nile is full of intelligent songs. Page 33

Orfeo danced: Mark Morris has presented his danced version of Gluck's opera *Orfeo* in New York, prior to this summer's Edinburgh Festival. Page 31

Deck cheers: A pastiche musical, *Dames at Sea*, is the hit of this year's Covent Garden Festival. Page 19

London: The straight-sets win by Michael Stich over Greg Rusedski suggests he could challenge for the French Open title. Page 44

Doing the Bis: With dozens of record companies competing to sign them up, Bis are symptomatic of a new wave of bright British teenage bands. Page 32

Quiet flows the Nile: Only three albums in 12 years, but the new release from Blue Nile is full of intelligent songs. Page 33

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Rock: Valerie Grove talks to Robert Fox, producer and younger brother of Edward and James, who, his mother says, is actually the best looking of the three. Page 16

Books for you: *Have I got News for You* thrives on unfortunate guest appearances such as the one last week by Piers Morgan, Editor of the *Daily Mirror*. Page 17

Resident alien: At 87, Quentin Crisp, for all his gay declamations and controversial life, still retains a characteristically English self-restraint. Page 17

EDUCATION

Literacy war: Evidence published earlier this week shows that Britain is slipping further down the competitiveness league table to nineteenth place, with Chile and Taiwan among the countries ahead of us. Page 35

Hearing for the deaf: Parents of a deaf child are challenging Hampshire County Council's decision to send her to a local comprehensive rather than to a school for deaf children. Page 35

THE PAPERS

The McDougal-Tucker conviction

case, and any others that might arise from Mr Starr's ongoing and very active investigation, have everything to do with the President and First Lady. Washington Times

— Washington Times

SPORT

IN THE TIMES

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FEATURES

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Gravesend, Kent, 28C (78F); lowest day temp: Orsay, Strathclyde, 10C (50F); highest rainfall: Valley, Anglesey, 0.47in. Highest sunshine: Jersey, 12.5hr

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AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5pm: b=bright, c=reduced, d=drizzle, du=dust storm, du=dust, i=light rain, lg=long, g=gale, h=high

Sun Rain Max Wind

Sun Rain Max Wind